

Latest News

Culture and Communities Committee
10.00am, Tuesday 15 September 2020



New Pitches Opened at Hunters Hall Park

The Convener of the Culture and Communities Committee, Councillor Donald Wilson, officially opened the new third generation (3G) pitches at Hunter's Hall Park in January. Councillor Wilson was joined by children from Edina Hibs and Gold and Gray Soccer Academy along with partners Edinburgh Leisure and the Scottish FA to cut the ribbon and open the pitches for community use. The £800,000 investment, funded by Section 75 developers contributions, is the first part of a masterplan to develop new sports facilities at Hunter's Hall Park. Future phases will see new cycling spaces developed along with further infrastructure improvements.



Edinburgh Winter Run/BUCS national Cross Country Championships

A very wild and windy Saturday 1 February saw over 1,000 hardy souls take part in the inaugural Edinburgh Winter Run event in Holyrood Park. Similar to the Great Winter Run of former years, this was a 5k road race round Arthur's Seat, always a hilly challenge even without any wind. To make this a truly family-friendly event, there was also a family mile and a toddler dash held at the same time, and these events did help contribute to what was a very friendly and inclusive atmosphere on the day. Councillors Donald Wilson and Cammy Day both took part in the Winter Run, crossing the finish line together.



At the other end of the athletics spectrum from the toddler dash, 1,657 highly-competitive university athletes took part in the BUCS National Cross Country Championships at the same venue. This was the highest-ever number of competitors in this event and is a reflection of the popularity of Edinburgh as an events destination, and also of the course in the spectacular Holyrood Park, which is rated by World Athletics as one of the five best cross country courses in the world. The lone piper marching along the massed ranks of gung-ho runners on the start line was like something out of Braveheart, and a sight to behold!

As well as the sterling efforts of a small band of seasoned volunteers without whom this event could not have taken place, it is worth noting that the University of Edinburgh was a generous and helpful partner in this event, subsidising Winter Run entries for its staff and students, and providing invaluable support for the securing and delivery of the BUCS event.

City Art Centre Exhibitions

Beneath the Surface which ran from 16 November 2019 to 1 March 2020 featured work by nine contemporary artists based in Scotland - Sara Brennan, Michael Craik, Eric Cruikshank, Kenneth Dingwall, Callum Innes, Alan Johnston, James Lumsden, Karlyn Sutherland and Andrea Walsh. Each of them articulated a minimalist aesthetic through abstraction in their work, ranging from constructions, drawings and paintings to ceramics, glass and tapestry. This show was accompanied by an exciting events programme, including the popular events detailed below:



On Saturday 11 January 2020, Brian Robertson, Curator at Zembla Gallery, chaired a discussion among six of the exhibiting artists. This *In Conversation* event was a unique opportunity to hear those artists talk about their work and the inspiration behind it. Despite the terrible weather that day this event was attended by 50 people.

Inspired by works in *Beneath the Surface*, artist Rachel Forbes ran two charging adult workshops in January, one called *Personal Narrative and Mindful Stitch* (Attendees: 12) and the other *Landscape Abstractions: A Window of Memory* (Attendees: 14). The first explored the meditative and mindful potential of stitch. Participants made tactile mini stitch journals inspired by a sense of place using fabric collage. The later workshop encouraged the participants to develop an abstract interpretation of an important landscape to them through drawing and experimental mark-making.



Personal Narrative and Mindful Stitch



Landscape Abstractions: A Window of Memory

City Art Centre Exhibitions



A line, a strip, a field of colour: Tapestry Masterclass

During the first weekend in February tapestry artist Fiona Hutchison ran a masterclass suitable for beginners and advanced students. This full day session examined how warp and weft of woven tapestry lends itself to exploring minimalism through lines, stripes and fields of colour, using wool, linen and cotton yarns. Attendees: 10.

Audacious Women Festival 2020

The 5th Audacious Women Festival (AWF) took place at the City Art Centre on 20-23 February. The aim of the Festival is to provide women with an opportunity to break personal, political, institutional barriers, and to celebrate audacious women. The majority of the activities are small, participative, women-only workshops many of which take place in the City Art Centre and encourage and support women to "Do What You Always Wish You Dared" through providing safe, supportive, non-critical spaces to try something new for the first time.

Having the use of the City Art Centre has been transformational for AWF as it has provided a Festival hub with a small cafe/seating area where women can share ideas and experiences before and after the workshops and creates a sense of community that was not possible when events were spread over many venues in the early years. One of the most successful workshops AWF ran last year was Scared to Sing, for women who were told at an early age to keep their mouths shut during singing sessions. Joining in was a deeply emotional experience for many of the participants, including several who were in tears. Yet immediately afterwards eight of them stood in front of a group of around 30 other Festival participants and sang a song they had just been taught. AWF has collected many other stories of changing women's lives, for example the woman who was terrified of public speaking who, as a result of coming to a workshop a couple of years ago, now gives papers at small conferences.

The only criteria for involvement in the Festival is that an event relates to "audacious women" so there is an eclectic range of topics covered. They aim to give women access to areas in which women are typically under-represented, or to experience an activity which they have previously been scared to try. Workshops in previous years for example led to around a dozen women going on to apply for a motor bike licence. This year events ranged from a Rope Access taster session

Audacious Women Festival 2020

(a strongly male-dominated industry) to various self-empowerment workshops such as Speak to Be Heard which provided participants with techniques for overcoming a lack of confidence when speaking in groups and how to speak with conviction and power. There were other workshops teaching a range of skills relating to art, theatre, and physical activities to name a few. In addition the Festival always includes events celebrating audacious women or telling women's history, which are open to all. This year Witches' Gets told of the persecution of women during the 17th century witch trials in Norway, while InVisible Lines explored women's experience of aging, loss, life-cycles, seasonality, death and defiance.

Black Lives Matter Protest Placards

Museums and Galleries Edinburgh have acquired a significant donation of placards made for, and used at, the Black Lives Matter static protest held in Holyrood Park in June. Curator Anna MacQuarrie worked with the protest organisers to secure this important acquisition. Work is ongoing to catalogue, assess for conservation, and accession them before they are added to the permanent collections held in the Museum Collections Centre, when venue access is permitted. Cataloguing and assessment work is being undertaken virtually between staff, as far as is possible. The placards will form part of Museums and Galleries Edinburgh's 'Protest and Reform' collection, sitting alongside banners and placards covering some hundreds of years of political and social activism history in the city.

Museums and Galleries Update

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic museums and galleries were closed as part of the wider lockdown to prevent the spread of the disease. This meant that scheduled exhibitions for 2020 have been cancelled. A number of these have been rescheduled to 2021, and we are delighted to be able to work towards the re-opening of the City Art Centre on 12 September with an exhibition celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the City Art Centre (see article below).

Museums and Galleries Update

During 2021 the City Art Centre will host the following exhibitions postponed from 2020:

Marine - Ian Hamilton Finlay



Ian Hamilton Finlay (with Patrick Caulfield), *Marine*, 1968.

© The Estate of Ian Hamilton Finlay.

Charles Hodge Mackie



Credit: Charles H. Mackie, *There were Three Maidens pu'd a Flower (By the Bonnie Banks o' Fordie)*, c.1897.
City Art Centre, Museums and Galleries Edinburgh

Further information on these exhibitions will be provided in the Bulletin for the next meeting of the Culture and Communities Committee.

The Travelling Gallery exhibitions scheduled for 2020 have also been rescheduled to take place in 2021:

Situated: Place, Art, Collection

Shapes of Water

City Art Centre Marks its 40th Anniversary

Having first opened its doors on 15 August 1980, heralded as combining ‘Scotland’s largest air-conditioned fine art exhibition space, with specialist environmental and security facilities...a must for the display of world masterpieces’ – Edinburgh’s City Art Centre is celebrating its 40th anniversary. Over the past 40 years the City Art Centre has staged over 500 exhibitions, shown priceless treasures from across the world and welcomed 100,000’s of visitors through its doors and is now a well-established, respected and cherished Scottish cultural resource.

To mark the anniversary, the City Art Centre is mounting a special ‘highlights’ exhibition from the City’s collection of Scottish art, set to open in mid-September. Widely recognized as being one of the finest in the country, the collection numbers over 5,000 works of art ranging from some of the earliest views of Edinburgh to works by many of Scotland’s leading contemporary artists. In addition, the gallery has created a ‘curation’ on the Art UK website, where former members of staff, critics, and gallery directors have all chosen their favourite painting or sculpture from the collection. You can view it here: <http://ow.ly/UwPO50B1zPf>



Crowds line the street to see *The Gold of the Pharaohs* exhibition in 1988

Covid-19 Contemporary Collecting Project

In the months since the Covid-19 Contemporary Collecting project was launched in April, we have had a wealth of offers of donation to our museum collections, ranging from hand-written daily jokes posted outside everyday by a 12 year old girl, to a shopping list shared between a 92 year old man, shielding, and his neighbour who brought him his messages. Each and every donation has had a deeply personal story to go along with it and speaks to the community effort of the past few months, as well as the extreme challenges faced. Museums and Galleries have also worked with

Covid-19 Contemporary Collecting Project

local businesses and community groups to acquire spare Personal Protective Equipment materials from those being distributed to frontline workers, including distillery-produced hand sanitiser bottles, face shields and fabric face coverings. The project has continued to garner interest within the museums sector, with curator Anna MacQuarrie being asked to speak at online events, including one held by Museums Galleries Scotland, and another held by a nationwide Contemporary Collecting specialist interest group. We have also worked in partnership with the University of Edinburgh on an oral history project to capture video memories of lockdown (<https://lothianlockdown.org/>), which will be added to our extensive oral history archives in due course.



Collections Inventory and Review Project

The Collections Inventory and Review project began in earnest in October 2019, starting with collections relating to Edinburgh's coastal communities at Newhaven and Queensferry. During lockdown, we have not been able to access the collections, but thankfully we get to our collections database while working from home. Just as we miss those people we love who we have not been able to see during lockdown, so we miss the familiar welcome of our stores and collections. However, the past four months have presented curators and collections staff with a unique opportunity to carry an astonishing amount of collections research and information cleaning. Collectively, the team working on the collections review has researched and recorded over 500 stories from our collections and tidied, cleaned, improved and enhanced over 40,000 records on our database. This means the information we have is more accurate, consistent and easier to find which will in turn make our collections enquiries service run smoother, and greatly improve our accountability for the wonderful collections we hold.

We have also been working on planning for the launch online of the public facing side of the project using a revamped blog page on the Museums and Galleries Museums website. This is anticipated to take place later this summer, and in preparation, the team have created 20+ podcasts, videos and blogs for engaging with our audiences online. Watch out for more on the project online, including the project's official name and brand.

Collections Inventory and Review Project

Highlights are too many to list, but range from a history of street cleaning in Edinburgh (from the days of “Gardy Loo” to the first mechanised water butt in 1935), the myths and stories depicted in Lauriston Castle’s fascinating 18th century prints, needlework as formal education for young girls, and a teddy bear belonging to a Victorian militia regiment!



Cultural Venues Update

A report was presented to the Policy and Sustainability Committee on [Thursday 28 May 2020](#), outlining the case to reschedule the Edinburgh Summer Sessions concerts due to take place in August, to August 2021. The recommendations of the report were approved (agenda item 6.7). This enables artists such as Sir Tom Jones, Lionel Richie and Travis, to reschedule dates in line with other cities and audiences were able to transfer their tickets to future dates.

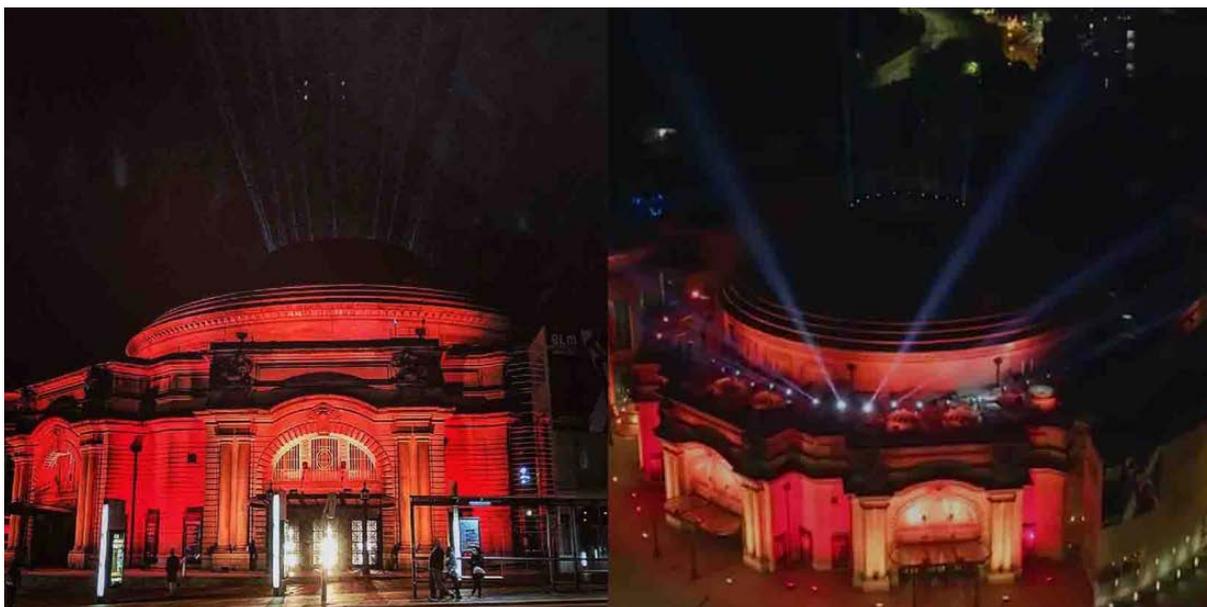


Some of our venues were made available to support partners delivering alternative programmes of work. The Edinburgh International Book Festival was able to use the Assembly Rooms as suitable space in which to create Covid-19 compliant film studios and broadcast an exciting and diverse range of speakers and content. More information can be found at www.edbookfest.co.uk



Cultural Venues Update

The Edinburgh International Festival presented a city-wide visual display under the title of My Light Shines. Beacons of light were visible across the city which marked out famous festival venues and settings after dark from 8–10 August. More details can be found at www.eif.co.uk and there is a one hour documentary available at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000lw7v/edinburgh-2020-my-light-shines-on> as well as on YouTube.



Officers were involved in creating and shaping the Scottish Government's sector guidelines for Performing Art and Venues in relation to operating within CV-19 parameters. These were published on Friday 21 August and details can be sourced at <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-the-performing-arts-and-venues-sector/> and will support the road map to returning to full capacity while protecting public health.

Edinburgh Culture Map Project Launched

The launch of Edinburgh's [cultural map](#) took place on Friday 28 August 2020.

The Edinburgh cultural map displays cultural spaces and their contexts in local communities across the city, offering an alternative perspective of our city's culture that looks beyond high-profile institutions and previously established tourist hubs. The event thanked everyone who took part in the map's creation, demonstrated how it works and its various features, and sought valued feedback. The project will continue to welcome feedback and input.

St Andrews Day Fair Saturday

The city again welcomes the return of St. Andrew's Day Fair Saturday this year. The programme is being finalised, and many performances may take place in the digital realm, so keep an eye on developments and events in your area via <https://www.scotland.org/events/st-andrews-day/fair-saturday>.

Building Capacity Through New Cycling Training

The Sport and Outdoor (S&OL) Learning Team is leading the way in Scotland in delivering a relatively new suite of CyclingUK training modules. In January, staff from the Council's Benmore and Bangholm Outdoor Centres delivered the Mountain Bike Trail Leader, Night Riding and Expedition modules. Participants included Centre staff and trainee instructors. The S&OL Team will shortly be offering the modules to Council staff, volunteers and partners via a new professional development offer. This is designed to build capacity; deliver regular and progressive affordable outdoor learning; and support the development of cycling across the City. It links in well to the Council's commitment to reducing inequality; improving health and wellbeing; and meeting the net-zero carbon target.



Blackhall - Goalball

Blackhall Primary School have set up a new sports club for pupils with visual impairments across Edinburgh. Sarah Goulding, parent at Blackhall came up with the idea and working with Active Schools, Lothian Disability Sport and Scottish Disability Sport, a plan was put in place for training needs, funding and how best to publicise the sessions. The funding bid was successful, and the project was granted £548 from Blackhall Sports Committee for equipment. The first session was delivered on Friday 24 January and was a great success! We look forward to introducing more children with a visual impairment to Goalball!



Craigmillar Tapestry Project

The Craigmillar Tapestry Project was awarded £5,000 from the City of Edinburgh Council and the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo in December 2018. The purpose of the funding was the delivery of a community art project, resulting in seven embroidered tapestry panels made by the Craigmillar community. The project was overseen by Connecting Craigmillar, a local community development project, with support from a member of the Council's Lifelong Learning Team. The worker for Connecting Craigmillar organised stitching workshops throughout the course of 2019, supported the community in their involvement, and promoted the initiative locally. World renowned Tapestry Artist Andrew Crummy delivered seven designs for the panels, each based on a different aspect of Craigmillar's culture and history. The designs include images of Craigmillar Castle, the Niddrie Stone, the Violin / Symbol of Craigmillar Festival Society and the local statue of Helen Crummy, who was one of the founders of the Craigmillar Festival Society.

There were approximately 65 hours of stitching workshops delivered overall by the textile artist Dorie Wilkie, to members of the community as well as students at Castlebrae High School and Castlevie Primary School. Parents and carers at Castlevie also participated in the workshops and stitching. The aim of the workshops was to teach different embroidery techniques which could be applied to the tapestries. Six of the tapestry panels have been passed around to be worked upon by members of the community, and the two schools worked specifically on a panel about Agnes Moffat, a child coal bearer in Craigmillar, whose testimony contributed towards a change in law around women and children working in coal mines. The parents and children from Castlevie Primary School focused on the rights of the child in their stitching themes. Three community events were held throughout the course of 2019 to promote the project locally: a launch in February 2019, June 2019 - as part of Thistle's 75th anniversary celebrations and a celebration of the progress and completion of some of the panels.

Lifelong Learning supported all above events and helped recruit participants, especially from the local and Syrian Refugee community. In addition to the Scottish local images multiculturalism is reflected in the borders of some of the panels – for example a Kurdish and African panel border.

It has been a wonderful project bringing young and old together, learning new skills, developing creativity as well as celebrating local creative talent and sharing different cultures.

Funding for Phase 2 of the project has been applied for.



Craigmillar Tapestry – violin panel (designed by Andrew Crummy) at Castlevie Primary celebration event, 5 December 2019

Granton Community Centre Public Artwork – “Many Hands Make a Community”

The Royston Wardieburn Community Centre has a new public artwork proudly on display in the centre's foyer entrance. The artwork was installed in December and is a legacy of the community's creative achievements and a successful example of partnership work delivered by local voluntary organisations and Lifelong Learning, who worked together co-producing a multicultural festival and participative art project in the heart of Granton during October 2019. The Art Project ran over a four-week duration, leading up to a one-day community celebration which engaged the community in a programme of music, dance, crafts and food tasters. The purpose of the art project was to make decorations for the main hall and engage local groups in the making process. A series of 14 artist lead workshops were devised to reach out to groups of local children, young people, parents and older people who had the opportunity to learn how to make felt, making elements of the design or helped to construct of the larger artwork. The workshops were facilitated by Inspirational Arts artists, who were commissioned to come up with the original designs inspired by a “multicultural, one world theme”.

The community groups which participated in the workshop programme included the Pilton Community Health Projects Chat Café, the community centres youth and children's clubs, the Granton Youth Centres Friday club, the Spring Chickens 60+ group, Granton Library families group and the Granton Community Gardeners Community meals, held in in the Granton Parish church. A total of 75 people of all ages were engaged in the making workshops and each person had the chance to make their own felt hand which was incorporated into the final art piece called “*Many Hands Makes a Community*”. Thanks to the CEC events fund, the community centre management committee and partners who deliver a fantastic celebratory event, bringing 250+ members of the community together, to socialise and celebrate the Granton areas uniqueness and cultural diversity, bringing young and old, established and new residents together!

Granton Community Centre Public Artwork – “Many Hands Make a Community”

The newly installed public artwork is a bold and colourful statement feature, which has proved popular and made an impact on the centre users and visitors. A credit to the artists Craig Betney and Jenny Muirhead for their excellent design and workshops and thanks to all the 75 people who contributed to making the art piece. “*Many Hands Make a Community!*” will be enjoyed and seen by the wider community and by centre users for many years to come.



Public Spaces Management Plan

The following broad actions arising from the report to Committee on [28 January 2020](#), Development of a Public Space Management Plan (PSMP) are being progressed by an officer Project Team who are developing the draft PSMP for consultation:

- Developing a clear description of the type and situation of public space (roads, pavements, squares, parks) that can be considered for events;
- Mapping areas by type and acceptable use for that location;
- Establishing and defining acceptable levels of event impact to the adjacent community;
- Defining a major event by impact on the space/community;
- Creating a ‘single point of the truth’ including all approved events, event applications and marches/parades;
- Creating a single application form that includes where possible, or links to, permits, licences etc;

Public Spaces Management Plan

- Exploring opportunities to curate/procure more events directly;
- Reviewing the 'Hit the Right Note' guide for buskers in Edinburgh and defining appropriate methods of managing busking;
- Identifying options to design in electricity supply points for events and activities and investigating the feasibility of using rechargeable energy packs;
- Ensuring controls to protect the primary use of Public Space are effective and appropriate;
- Ensuring applications for events include mitigations for the impact of that event;
- Refining the application form so applications/applicants for events identify any potential damage to the space and include reinstatement measures/bond to rectify;
- Establishing different charging levels for community and commercial, exploring the opportunity for commercial event charges to subsidise community events;
- Listing the licence, permit, permissions etc that apply to the use of public spaces. Identifying the controls these licences, permits, permissions etc provide and identifying the resource/mechanism to enforce these controls;
- Identifying any gaps in controls, regulations or resource;
- Producing guides for the use of space, including rig and de-rig, application process, for each type of event;
- Exploring opportunities to use a web-based platform to be a 'single source of the truth'; and
- Reviewing Park Management Rules.

A presentation and open discussion on development of the draft Public Space Management Plan was had by the Festival and Events All Party Oversight Group on 18 August 2020. The complexity was noted and a desire to ensure the management plan promotes inclusivity, is clear, unambiguous and straightforward, so it and decisions coming from it are easily understood. It was agreed to hold discussions with stakeholders to further develop and refine the draft, before bringing it to this committee to approve for wider consultation. The final Public Space Management Plan will then be brought to this committee for approval.

Saughton Park Restoration Project Update

The Parks, Greenspace and Cemeteries service has successfully restored Saughton Park and gardens to its former glory as a major visitor destination that showcases horticultural excellence and innovative sustainable energy solutions, offers exceptional recreational and visitor facilities, opportunities for learning and volunteering, and engenders a sense of pride in the neighbouring communities. As well as redesigning tired floral beds and borders, the project included restoration of the walled and winter garden, restoration of the stables as a new community venue and base for our partners, the Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society, building a new café and public toilets

Saughton Park Restoration Project Update

facilities, improving play and exercise facilities, installing ground source heat pump and micro hydro energy features, and developing circuit routes for walking, running and health activities. The park and gardens were officially opened on 6 June 2019 by HRH Princess Anne.

The micro-hydro energy contract was completed in February this year. The power generated has been used to support newly installed ground-source heat pumps, meaning that all the energy use on the site is from sustainable sources. To date, an additional 40MWh of power has been fed back to the grid, giving a carbon saving of 7400kg.

An Activity Officer was also appointed in February, with responsibility for delivering the Activity Action Plan. He has liaised with potential site hirers/users and activity providers, including the National Trust for Scotland, Edinburgh Music College, SRUC Oatridge, the Water of Leith Conservation Trust, and beekeeping groups. He is also developing volunteer activity tasks/packs for community and corporate volunteers, as well as creating the Saughton Park Tours and Talks booking programme.

As a result of Covid-19 containment measures we initially closed the walled garden and associated buildings to the public, and planned events, tours and volunteer activities were cancelled. Although the walled garden, courtyard toilets and café have subsequently re-opened, the McHattie Room, office and Winter Garden remain closed until further notice. Since June, some volunteer horticultural activity has resumed, included watering and weeding and maintaining the community Orchard and Physic Garden. The charity ABC Cycling has also been lending bicycles to key workers and regular all-ability users from purposefully installed facilities in the park.

The Garden Bistro adapted and implemented various processes in line with Covid-19 guidelines, operating a takeaway service since 23 June and outdoor dining since 6 July. The team of 25 staff has serviced over 5000 dining covers to date, an incredible success in a very testing operating environment.

Since the easing of lockdown there has also been a marked increase in use of the two car parks, with particular pressure on the Balgreen car park. Yellow lining, signage directing traffic to the Fords Road car park and TTROs have been introduced to help manage the demand and consequential impacts; but continuing demand means that more permanent solutions are under consideration.

The park and gardens have recently been judged for the national Green Flag Award. We anticipate learning the outcome in September.

Thirteen CCTV cameras are also to be installed across the site in September to help tackle ongoing antisocial behaviour and vandalism.

The current management plan is currently being re-written, along with a marketing plan to enhance income generation and increase volunteer numbers and activities. We aim to re-start our event and activity programme once government guidelines permit, as well as introduce a horticultural training programme for Council staff, volunteers and other organisations.

Water of Leith Valley Improvement – Dean Valley Walkway

The community led Dean Valley Regeneration Ltd (DVRL) has produced a series of studies and feasibility reports, and undertaken a number of consultation activities, to identify and cost the principal works required to renew the Water of Leith walkway and its associated features between Stockbridge and Dean Village. This identified an overall investment requirement (exclusive of VAT) of £1,921,000, including contingency; £1,326,000 capital and landscape works; £150,000 interpretation; £100,000 activity, £120,000 project management; £75,000 project development; £150,000 inflation.

To fund agreed works and community activities, a partnership comprising DVRL, City of Edinburgh Council, Edinburgh World Heritage, and the Water of Leith Conservation Trust collectively submitted an Expression of Interest to the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) for a total contribution of £960,500. However, the NLHF responded on 23 January 2020 stating that, at this time, they will not be inviting a submission to their National Lottery Grants for Heritage for this project.

The DVRL committee has now closed the charity. The Council retains the study and feasibility reports and will seek to deliver key elements of works as and when resources become available.

Dean Path Landslip Update

The litigation of this matter has now been concluded and an agreement reached to allow remedial works to be carried out.

The primary design team and sub-contractors have been identified and are in the process of finalising the technical scheme. Planning, environmental and tree removal consents have been requested.

The works will ultimately clear the slope, stabilise it and the upslope property, and reinstate the path along the bank of the Water of Leith. These works include but are not be limited to:

- Clearance of debris and vegetation on the slope;
- Soil nailing and piling on the main slope and concrete foundations within the neighbouring, upslope property to stabilise the land;

Dean Path Landslip Update

- Reinstatement of concrete foundations of the upslope property;
- Repair and reinstatement of the footpath located along the Water of Leith affected by the land slip. This includes the rebuild of gabion baskets next to the water course and the reinstatement of the post and rail fencing;
- Remedial landscaping; and
- Installation of external drainage.

Due to the impact of Covid-19 on construction works, a commencement date has not yet been confirmed and will be determined in line with government guidance. It is anticipated that the on-site time for these works will span approximately 26 weeks. Committee will be kept updated on progress as a date for the commencement of the work is finalised.

Floral Meadows in South West Locality

Edinburgh Living Landscape

The Edinburgh Living Landscape is a partnership project that creates, restores and connects green areas of the city to make attractive and biodiverse landscapes. Landscapes will be healthy, nature rich and resilient to climate change. The project involves measures such as:

- Creating floral meadows;
- reducing how often some areas of grass are cut and allowing natural grassland to thrive;
- mowing pathways through areas of longer grass so they can still be explored and enjoyed;
- planting trees and creating woodlands;
- increasing our use of herbaceous perennial planting; and
- planting bulbs.

Allowing grassland habitats to develop in a more natural manner in urban settings by reducing grass cutting or sowing flowering plants offers:

- increased biodiversity as birds, mammals and insects are attracted to wilder or more natural areas;
- reduced costs of maintained areas of grassland;
- added colour to the cityscape as we plant flowering species; and
- reduces CO2 release due to less cutting, which also helps lock-up carbon in soils.

Floral Meadows in South West Locality

Floral Meadows in South West Locality 2020

Since the introduction of the Living Landscape programme in 2015 there have been a total of 32 meadow sites sown in the South West Locality. Out of these 32 sites, three have been removed from the programme entirely and returned to grass. Five sites were rested in 2019 and a further two sites were scheduled to be rested in the 2020 growing season. This is due to a number of factors in maintaining the quality of the meadow site and is an approach that is replicated across other meadow locations in the city.

Due to Covid restrictions in Spring 2020 the planned 20 annual meadow sites were not re-sown and simply left to bloom throughout the growing season, leaving only the existing two perennial meadow sites located in Saughton Park. A full list of the 32 sites mentioned and their current status are contained in the table below. We intend to carry out a review of all our meadow sites across the city prior to the 2021 growing season with the intention to follow the 2020 meadow sowing plan from Spring 2021 instead.

	Locality
Meadow number	South West
SW1	Bloomiehill Park
SW2	East Harrison Park (strip at canal)
SW3	East Harrison Park (2 small areas)
SW4	East Harrison Park (at Banking)
SW5	Muirwood Park
SW6	Whinhill Park
SW7	Whinhill Park
SW8	Stenhouse Place East
SW9	Sighthill Park
SW10	Sighthill Park
SW11	Redhall Park (at play area)

KEY
Planned 2021 sites
Rested Site
Removed Site

Floral Meadows in SW Locality

	Locality
Meadow number	South West
SW12	Redhall Park (at banking)
SW13	Redhall Park (at Memorial)
SW14	Hailes Quarry Park
SW15	Saughton Park
SW16	Saughton Park
SW17	Spylaw Park
SW18	Meadowspot Park
SW19	Fairmilehead Park
SW20	Drumbryden
SW21	Hailes Avenue
SW22	Nether Curry Primary School
SW23	Marchbank Park
SW24	Alexander Place
SW25	Balgreen Roundabout
SW26	Greenways
SW27	Stenhouse Cross Roundabout
SW28	Broomhouse Power Station
SW29	Harrison Park (small beds)
SW30	Polwarth area
SW31	Murieston Park
SW32	Calders

Edinburgh Leisure Plans for Reopening

Edinburgh Leisure have recently reopened a number of facilities and, at the time of writing, are preparing for further opening of facilities. A summary of these arrangements is provided below:

Golf: The four 18-hole courses opened on 4 June 2020 and the two 9-hole courses on 1 July 2020. Operating arrangements reflect guidance from the Scottish Government and Scottish Golf Union. A number of changes were introduced to ensure a safe environment for customers and staff and also to deliver operational efficiencies.

Outdoor Tennis: The Meadows tennis courts opened on 29 May 2020 and the outdoor tennis courts at Craiglockhart opened on 15 July 2020. Circa 200 clubs use Edinburgh Leisure and the high school sport facilities. Our working assumption (as advised by CEC colleagues) is that there will be no community access to the school facilities until October at the earliest.

Outdoor Sports: There has been ongoing dialogue with relevant national governing bodies of sport re accessing facilities.

Access (all on pre booked and restricted basis) to four venues for cricket and one venue for athletics, started back on 1 August 2020 and 3 August 2020 respectively.

Edinburgh Leisure Plans for Reopening

Other outdoor sports clubs were contacted at the end of July and asked to advise on their requirements for the period 24 August to 18 October 2020 (taking cognisance of the relevant return to sport guidance prepared by the national governing bodies of sport and SportsScotland). A temporary extended let/regular booking programme has been put in place. Pitch venues currently in use are: Meggetland, Saughton, Jack Kane Centre, Duddingston, Gyle, Campbell Park, Roseburn, Colinton Mains and Inverleith (the latter four venues on a key holder basis). This continues to be developed subject to demand.

Indoor Venues: The Royal Commonwealth Pool, Drumbrae Leisure Centre, Ainslie Park Leisure Centre, Craiglockhart Tennis and Sport Centre, Gracemount Leisure Centre and Leith Victoria Swim Centre all opening on 14 September 2020. The venues will initially have a reduced programme of activities, the focus being on: gym, fitness classes, lane swimming sessions, badminton, tennis and club bookings (all as per Scottish Government and SportsScotland Guidance).

Details available on Edinburgh Leisure website: <https://www.edinburghleisure.co.uk/fitness-at-home/reopening-plans>

Update on Libraries and Community Centres

Libraries

While we all want to see our libraries up and running again, our top priority is the health of residents and colleagues.

How we safely manage the reopening of any of our services is directed by [Scottish Government guidance](#). We also need to take into account that each library has its own specific considerations. In planning the re-opening of Edinburgh's library buildings, we have considered different approaches adopted by our colleagues in many services across Scotland, and further afield in England, Northern Ireland and Europe.

We are confident that opening our buildings in this phased approach follows the Scottish Government guidelines and maintains health, safety and comfort for our staff and customers.

The first phase of opening will see a selection of library buildings across the city reopening (target date of Tuesday 13 October), offering limited access to browsing and lending, public access computers, support for national entitlement card applications, printing and photocopying services, collection of Hey Girls free sanitary protection and hearing aid batteries. As you might expect, numbers within buildings will be limited, social distancing measures will be in place and some services will only be available by booking in advance.

The six libraries are Central, Kirkliston, McDonald Road, Fountainbridge, Stockbridge and Newington.

Further information on dates, times and how to book your visit will be advertised shortly.

Community Centres

So far Management Committees at four centres have applied for the defined reopening purposes. All have been approved to reopen for these purposes.

Culture and Communities Committee



Convener
Councillor Donald Wilson



Vice-Convenor
Councillor Amy Mcneese-Mechan

Members

Councillor Wilson (*Convener*)
Councillor McNeese-Mechan (*Vice-Convenor*)
Councillor Brown
Councillor Doggart
Councillor Doran
Councillor Howie
Councillor Mitchell
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