

Friends of Lenzie Moss Annual General Meeting

11th June 2014

Attending: Christine Morrison; Joan Christie, Iain Christie, Paul Dudman, Muriel Evans, Bill Evans, David Lee, Sheilah Shaw, Norma Christie, Alma Griffin, David Conway, David Shenton, Fiona Burns, Jackie Gillespie.

1. Apologies

Apologies: Anna Illingworth; George Paterson; Mandy Glass; Rhonda Geekie; Fiona MacLoud; Kate Sanford; Kate Robinson; Jo Swinson (still on maternity leave)

2. Minutes of the AGM held on 20th June 2013

The minutes were proposed by J. Christie and seconded by P. Dudman

3. Chairperson's report

Christine Morrison commented on the continuing good use of the Moss and the invaluable work put in by a wide variety of people, including: Fiona Burns of the EDC Ranger Service, the conservation volunteers, Jackie Gillespie (EDC Neighbourhood Services Strategy Officer) and those users of the Moss who regularly picked up litter.

She brought everyone up to date with proceedings over the past 12 months in relation to the Emerging Local Development Plan and the sites initially proposed for housing adjacent to Lenzie Moss. The current position is that EDC have proposed not to include the sites on Lenzie Rugby Club land or at the top of Heather Drive and Boghead Rd., and to restrict the site at Blackthorn Grove to the hard standing where the old garages were located. FoLM wrote to EDC supporting their decision. The draft Local Plan will be available in April 2015 and FoLM will continue to monitor the position.

Other building developments:

1) an additional site for the Emerging Local Development Plan had recently been proposed for housing on a field in Crosshill Rd., situated on or adjacent to the southern part of the original raised peat bog. This could potentially have an effect on the hydrology of the Moss, and members were asked to have a look at this on EDC's website. The cut-off date for objections was 20 June 2014.

2) the new Lenzie Moss Primary School has been given the go-ahead by the Scottish Government, and is to be built on the existing playing field adjacent to the Moss. It had been noted by the developers that the hydrology of the site would have to be checked vis-à-vis the vulnerability of the Moss to development.

Round-up:

FoLM continues to issue its twice-yearly Newsletter – a big thank you to Anna Illingworth for her sterling work on this; its website has been improved – a big thank

you to George Paterson for this. FoLM has a good number of followers on Facebook. Christine and Anna attended a volunteering road show at Lenzie Academy in March as part of the Academy's desire to encourage their older pupils to become involved in local voluntary work. 480 pupils attended this and FoLM will continue to try and engage with the school for volunteers.

Finally, Christine thanked Jackie, Fiona, the volunteers and her fellow committee members for all their help during the previous 12 months.

4. Ranger's report

The Ranger (Fiona Burns) gave a report of the activities that had taken place on the Moss.

The Conservation Volunteers had met six times over the winter, with 72 volunteers attending in total. Activities included: removing birch scrub, path maintenance and repairs. Many other volunteers groups work on the Moss, including those from various companies, the Duke of Edinburgh scheme, New Caledonian Woodlands, Community Justice, and the Mugdock volunteers. The next area for the volunteers to work on will be removal of birch in the grassland area.

Events included bug hunts, Harry Potter brooms, Christmas garland making, and walks including the dawn and dusk walks. A recent activity had been camera trap photographs as part of the John Muir photography event. Photographs from this were displayed at the meeting.

Planned activities include a natural art event as well as the ever popular Harry Potter brooms in October.

Various schools continue to work with the Rangers, including Lenzie Primary with a mini-beast study, Lenzie Moss Primary with a water quality study and health walks, and Merlewood nursery.

Details of all the activities are available in printed form (Mugdock Country Park "What's on" booklet contains all EDC area activities), and online from both Mugdock and our websites.

Fiona thanked the Friends of Lenzie Moss for their ongoing support in running their activities and grant work.

5. Report from Jackie Gillespie

Jackie Gillespie, Neighbourhood Services Strategy Officer with EDC, updated us on the work undertaken on the Moss over the past 12 months

Additional dams had been installed to hold in water in the main peat bog, and walrags added to monitor the water depth. These were funded in part by the Green Stimulus Fund administered by SNH and by East Dunbartonshire Council. Early indications are that sphagnum moss is already regenerating around these dams. The sphagnum is very important for holding water in the bog.

Other works completed included boardwalk repairs, fitting of wire mesh to improve grip, and a peat depth survey. Jackie reported that further grants are being applied for, to carry out further removal of scrub in the woodlands to both the north and south sides of the Moss, and to construct several more dams. Also, a trial planting of Marsh

Violet and Marsh Thistle has taken place, in the hope of attracting Fritillary butterflies. She was pleased to hear of sightings of the green hairstreak butterflies on the Moss, and explained that the particular habitat required for these rare creatures is found on the Moss.

4. Treasurer's report and approval of accounts

Paul Dudman (Treasurer) reported on the FOLM's audited accounts, detailing the income and expenditure items, with an overall surplus of £77. Membership income was up slightly. There had been no grants obtained in 2013-14 by the Friends, but two are in progress for this financial year.

The accounts were proposed by I. Christie and seconded by J. Christie

5. Election of committee and office bearers

The proposal for the committee membership for 2014-15 was as follows, with those proposing and seconding in brackets.:

Membership Secretary – Joan Christie (P. Dudman, C. Morrison)

Newsletter Coordinator – Anna Illingworth (J. Christie, C. Morrison)

Secretary - Kate Sanford (J. Christie, N. Christie)

Chair – Christine Morrison (P. Dudman, I. Christie)

Treasurer – Paul Dudman (J. Christie, D. Lee)

David Lee was elected as a new committee member, with Iain Christie agreeing to continue his committee service (proposed C. Morrison, seconded P. Dudman).

6. Talk from David Shenton

David gave a talk in two parts.

First, as Convener of the Management Group for Loch Ardinning Wildlife reserve, David gave a very informative talk on the history of the site, the flora and fauna found on the reserve, and activities that can be enjoyed by visitors. David gave examples of what can be seen for those interested in butterflies, pondlife, wetlands, scenery (with views to Ben Lomond and beyond), wildflowers, grassland, woodlands, bird watching and spotting various mammals such as roe deer.

David then gave an update on the Millersneuk Wetlands. The site is a candidate LNR, on the eastern side of the new link road. There are many breeding birds as well as wintering wildfowl. There are water voles and otters, and unfortunately mink that are taking water voles. Visitors may access the site via Burnbrae Road, where there is a car parking space. Once on the site, a bird hide has been erected and further tree screening has been planted. Volunteers are needed for

help with recording wildlife, maintaining records, and producing a management plan. Any interested parties should contact the Friends group who will pass on their details to David.

Christine Morrison thanked our speakers for their interesting talks, and then closed the meeting, there being no other items.