

friends of Lenzie Moss

Winter 2019-20

The Friends of Lenzie Moss is a voluntary association dedicated to conserving the Moss for the benefit of present and future generations by all possible means: through education, liaison with official bodies, and appropriate environmental management.

**A VERY HAPPY
HARRY POTTER!**



**“Build a Harry Potter Birch Broom Day”
6 October 2019**

UPDATE ON LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2 - MAIN ISSUES REPORT (MIR)

EDC issued its Main Issues Report for consultation in October 2019. We attended one of the drop-in sessions on 25 October, and also studied the MIR document itself to see if any of the proposals were likely to affect Lenzie Moss.

The only proposal that had the potential to affect Lenzie Moss was Site reference S46. This is a re-submission of a development proposed in the last Local Development Plan, namely a development on the sports pitches at the top of Boghead Rd.

The current development proposal includes the existing pitches, and also extends over the open space between Heather Drive and the boardwalk, from Crosshill Rd. eastward to the north woods on the LNR. See main area outlined in red on map below.

The development is for a residential estate of 100 houses, together with all-weather pitches, tennis

courts, car parking and changing facilities/clubroom. We are pleased to say that the application was turned down by the Council, either as a preferred option or an alternative option.

You can read the detailed assessment of the site in Appendix 7 to the MIR, which contains the individual site assessments. In broad terms, the assessment recognised that

- the eastern part of the site is part of Lenzie Moss LNR, an active lowland raised bog, actively managed to protect the carbon sink provided by the peat, and is of European importance. Development would have an adverse effect on the hydrology of the peat bog.
- development would have a negative effect on the flora and fauna of the LNR.
- development would involve the loss of the existing open space, identified in the Open Space Strategy 2015 as of very good quality.

SITE ASSESSMENT MAP S46



The only other development – yet to be started – is for the 8 dwellings adjacent to the Moss in Blackthorn Grove, a development agreed in the last

Local Development Plan. As the dwellings are to be erected on the hard standing in Blackthorn Grove, any impact on the Moss should be minimal.

FOOTFALL COUNTER ON BEA'S PATH BETWEEN FERN AVENUE AND HAWTHORN AVENUE

A footfall counter was installed by EDC in December 2018 on Bea's Path between Fern Avenue and Hawthorn Avenue. Its aim was to "provide data that can be used to prove and monitor the use of the Moss in a quantitative way, which will be important in delivering funding. It can aid in the understanding of longer-term trends and as such is viewed as important in the protection of the Moss."

EDC forwards the data from the counter to us, and we have carried out some analysis of the numbers produced:

- Between December 2018 and March 2019, the average monthly count was 6,000 a month, but this rises to an average of 8,000 a month for April to September. This gives daily average of 274.
- The busiest month was June with 10,000 counts.
- The busiest day was Monday 13th May with 479, but 1st January was also busy with 343. The lowest count was 102 on Friday 31st May. The weather on these days probably accounts for the difference, with the 13th being sunny and the 31st wet!
- The numbers show that visits start around 6am,

peaking between 2pm and 3pm then declining as darkness hours arrive.

• The hourly totals do not differ significantly between weekdays and weekends. The lengthening of the days can be seen in the growing number of later visits. The only period no people were recorded was between 3am to 4am, although 4am to 6am is also a very quiet time.

We will be keeping a record of the monthly totals to check future trends.



Footfall graph January 2019 to September 2019

BEA'S PATH UPDATE

As we reported in our last issue, EDC halted their proposal for a radical upgrade to Bea's Path, and we are pleased to see the more modest improvement to the path, much more in keeping with a nature reserve. This should mean better walking for adults and children, without encouraging speedy cyclists, who may well have posed a risk to pedestrians under the original proposal.



Bea's Path

THE RAILWAY PATH UPDATE

On 30 October we attended the drop-in session for EDC's draft Local Transport Strategy, which includes their Active Travel Strategy, and can report that the proposed Kirkintilloch/Lenzie/Bishopbriggs cycling/walking route still forms part of their plans. The route traverses Lenzie Moss along the path parallel to the railway line.

We reported on this in our winter 2017-18 issue, and have already expressed our reservations about the potentially significant development of the Lenzie Moss part of the route.

However, we understand that the project is still held up over property access elsewhere along the route, so there is no fixed date for any further action. The Active Travel Strategy team have assured us that there will still be a proper consultation about the proposal at such time as the current access difficulties are resolved.

NEWS IN BRIEF

NEW BENCH ON LENZIE MOSS AT THE TOP OF HEATHER DRIVE

In May last year we were contacted by Nicola Young of Merlwood Nursery to say that the nursery was closing its doors in June after 44 years operating in the Lenzie community. You may recall that the children at the nursery had enjoyed woodland play on Lenzie Moss.

Nicola asked whether it would be possible for the nursery to donate a bench as a farewell gift to Lenzie Moss out of the nursery's residual funds.

The FoLM committee thought that a bench would be a welcome addition to the circular path – many of our more elderly walkers would welcome another place to rest! – and we agreed with Nicola a style of bench that would be in keeping with the Nature Reserve. The Lenzie Moss volunteers installed the bench on Nicola's behalf.



Nicola digging the first turf for the new bench. She also burned a lovely picture (pyrography) of Merly bear into the bench.



John and Murdoch of Lenzie Moss Volunteers sitting on the bench they had just installed.

John and Murdoch were joined by fellow volunteers Gaynor and Anne on the day, and the group cut back the overhanging branches and vegetation encroaching on to the path at both ends of the north woods path, cleared the culverts under the paths, and collected litter.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- Conservation volunteer day in January. Date to be advised.

- Lenzie Sensational Safari: Messing About on the Moss!

Wednesday 12th February 1pm - 4pm

Calling all active 8-12 year olds! Pull on your wellies and explore the amazing raised bog of Lenzie Moss on this 3-hour adventure with the Ranger Service. Booking essential 0141 956 6100. Cost £10.

CORRECTION

The new notice board at the station carpark entrance to the Moss was delivered as a community benefit from the Lenzie Travel Hub project. The project was funded by Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT), Sustrans, ScotRail, and with a Developer Contribution from the Woodilee Consortium. We mistakenly said in our last Newsletter that it was funded by R. J. McLeod.

Membership

We are very grateful for your support, which is vital to us in our work of protecting this outstanding local greenspace; so please continue your membership, and persuade others to become Friends of Lenzie Moss too.

Annual Membership fees are:

- Single, retired or unwaged £7
- Family £12

Subscriptions cover the year 1st April until 31st March the following year. For this you will receive twice-yearly Newsletters, and will be notified of events and activities concerning the Moss. (A reduced fee applies for anyone joining mid-year.)

Committee Members

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Members wishing to join the committee are always welcome.