

Annual Report 2014



Masterplan for site now agreed

EDI are the City Council Development group who are charged with developing the New Masterplan for the area with 7N architects. Preliminary Planning Permission (PPP) was granted for the EDI Fountainbridge Masterplan before Christmas and they are now progressing with detailed design work for the site and will be concentrating on developing the residential elements.

FCI has continued to express concerns over the height of the buildings alongside the canal and the lack of community facilities within the Masterplan. Early discussions have taken place between FCI and Re-Union about forming a Community Development Trust in order to develop a 'community hub' which we feel is vital in this development.

EDI will launch a website for the Fountainbridge site in March, which will have scope to cover community aspects of the project including an events listing. You can register now to receive updates by going to <http://www.liveworkgrow.co.uk/>

Fountainbridge has been shortlisted for the Best Achievement in Masterplanning for the Scottish Property Awards in March 2015.

The dialogue FCI has sought about the site has been greatly enhanced by the two community engagement staff employed by EDI and the Edinburgh Printmakers. The establishment of these new posts show a positive commitment to regular consultation with the community and FCI have found both

to be excellent. This step supports the creation of constructive relationships that we all need.

New Boroughmuir High School



O'Hare & McGovern have been appointed by the Council for the construction of the new school, and started on site in October 2014 with the project due for completion August 2016.

The new school building and proposed Public Park is located immediately to the west of Viewforth, bounded by the adjacent Union Canal and Dundee Street to the north. The new five storey school building is designed to accommodate 1165 pupils and will include a multi use games area (MUGA) at roof level and landscaping to the school grounds.



The Linear Park

The green space immediately in front of the school will be a shared space with the public having access out of school hours.

FCI were concerned as to how this would work and how to make it a more attractive green space. The scope for any influence is small at this late stage but we hope to improve some elements such as tree planting and locally designed benches

Canal Festival

Co-ordinated by Re-Union Canal Boats, this year's festival was again lucky to have good weather and thousands of local people attended the day and took to the water! The Wee Boat flotilla opened up the day and local boat clubs provided free boat trips for 580 passengers. There were 14 rafts for the even crazier raft race and almost 100 people took part in the Forth Canoe Club canoe taster sessions.



A successful market place had 25 stalls selling information, a variety of food and even haircuts. The Hands on Science Tent continued the collaboration with Heriot Watt University and the FCI stall and History Panels attracted attention and 30 new supporters. Thanks go to the amazing 45 volunteers who made this wonderful community festival happen.

The Festival this coming year will be on **Saturday 27th June**. Contact pat@re-union.co.uk for more information and to get involved.

Meanwhile Activity

The hoardings surrounding the site have come down, and tree lined pathways mark out the future walkways through the site. FCI has actively supported EDI's **meanwhile land use strategy** over the last year and together with them, co-ordinated the innovative range of temporary, dismantlable projects on the site.

The intention is that some of these temporary initiatives will eventually find a permanent home on the site, constructing a flagship inclusive, ecological and sustainable community. What has been inspiring is the cross-fertilisation of ideas and support between these initiatives and how it has allowed space for creativity, innovation, and social networks to blossom.

The **Grove 2 Community Garden** has continued to inspire and involve local people. After a successful debut in Edinburgh's 'Doors Open Day' in September, and a Harvest Festival, gardening activity has quietened down at the end of the year. But maintenance and building projects such as the greenhouse, green roof and bothy continue. A Green Hub is also planned. The award of a free Woodland Trust tree pack means that in early March, more trees will make their appearance.



At the first meeting of FCI three years ago, an older local resident who had worked in the Forestry Commission attended the meeting, supported by his family. He had brought a drawing of the trees he wanted to see planted on site, which would have made an inner city 'forest'. We haven't quite managed that but this latest award keeps part of his dream alive.

In November, the Grove was shown on the BBC's 'Glorious Gardens from Above' series.

The Forge metal, wood and glass infusion workshop space has grown is an exciting way and will be open to the wider public in the next month. New containers are being added which will provide storage space and a Scrapstore.



FCI were pleased to hear we have been awarded grants to help develop two of our projects. The **Play Area** is being supported from the Waste Action Fund and will allow us to create a free play area for children using re-cycled materials.



The S.W Neighbourhood Partnership has also agreed to fund the raising of a **Community Pavilion**. This will be based on wikihouse ideas of self-build that require no special skills or equipment - all the pieces are cut out by a special CNC router and then slot together in a firm structure. This 'barn raising' event will be over the **1st/2nd/3rd May** weekend on the site and local teams recruited to help with this exciting self-build event.

The Pianodrome

This must be a first! The Pianodrome will be a 100-seater open-air amphitheatre constructed from 48 reclaimed pianos by local artist Tim Vincent-Smith. This will provide

a temporary venue for the Edinburgh Festival in August.



A balanced population

FCI has continued to challenge the growth of 'transient' developments which distorts the local population mix and impacts on the social and retail environment. Our audit of student build within 10 mins walk of Edinburgh Quay showed 3000 units for students. The two extra ones - at the Mecca Bingo hall and the one being built next in Fountainbridge next to QI would bring it to 3735.

In addition there is another rash of apart-hotels - self catering hotels in the immediate vicinity. Plans have been submitted for a £35 million 176 rooms 'Urban Villa' apart hotel on the old RBS site adjacent to Edinburgh Quay - seven stories high.



FCI will continue, alongside other local groups to protest against this impact on the local area.

We now have 73 full members, a supporter's mailing list of 27 local organisations and 196 individuals. Our monthly Steering Group meeting is open to all. Come and join us!

Fountainbridge Canalside Initiative

www.fountainbridgeci.org.uk