



NEWS MARCH 2012

1. **REPORT OF VISION DAY PUBLIC LAUNCH: 4TH APRIL** Over 80 people attended a lively day of discussions and proposals for the future development of the canalside sites from the basin to Gibson terrace. It was an inspiring day of local involvement and many positive and creative ideas emerged. A full report has been drawn up and will be circulated to everyone who attended, all stake holders, local organisations, and the general public through the media and local drops. After that we will form action groups which you should join to take forward our ideas . so put the date in your diary and we will see you at the Re-Union Canal Centre Lochrin basin at 7pm on Wednesday April 4th.
2. **PROPOSED NEW BOROUGHMUIR SCHOOL** Members of the FCI steering group attended a public consultation meeting regarding the proposed move of Boroughmuir high school to the western end of the canalside site between Gibson Terrace and Viewforth. They were surprised by the proposal below for the school to "spill out " into the park. FCI will express concern to the council regarding this proposal and the threat to public amenity , but individual expressions of concern carry much more weight. So please read the proposals and write to the council at the address or email below.
 - The park ,designed and to be made by Pochin, replaces a park beside Fountainbridge which will be built on
 - FCI is involved with talks with Pochin/Napier. We wish to enhance the park as per the discussions we had on the vision day. We envisaged the park as a major element in improving the attractiveness and participation in the canalside. Any move by the council to reduce this public amenity goes against the wishes expressed at that meeting attended by 80 local people.
 - The area is deficient in green public spaces.

Please visit the consultation document below and make your views known.

Total area of site	1.3ha* canal side	0.9ha **existing boroughmuir
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- ***Includes 0.3ha currently designated as public park space - represents minimum site size which may be subject to improvement.***
- Point 4.5 ***The location adjacent to a public park and canal side allows the school the opportunity to spill out into these areas,*** creating a very different setting from the existing site;
- http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/675/consultations_on_education/1615/boroughmuir_high_school_location_consultation/5
- The consultation period will run from **20 February to 30 March 2012** and the paper will be made available electronically and in paper format. All comments received will be recorded and represented in the final consultation report, along with the Council's response to that comment.
- During the consultation period, any views on this proposal should be sent in writing to the address given below. Responses can also be made by e-mail to cf.propertyreview@edinburgh.gov.uk. All responses to the consultation paper should be received by Friday, 30 March 2012 and addressed to the Head of Resources, Children and Families Department.
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- Billy MacIntyre
- Head of Resources

- Children and Families Department
 - City of Edinburgh Council
 - Waverley Court Level 1:2
 - 4 East Market Street
 - Edinburgh, EH8 8BB
3. **MEETING WITH CANMORE HOUSING** Jane and Pat met with Canmore housing. They would like to be involved on the social housing and were pleased that we will talk to the master planner at an early stage. A mix of residential and commercial, particularly small to mid size is appealing. They suggested getting in touch with developers they have worked with.
 4. **MEETING WITH GROSVENOR DEVELOPMENT** Robin Blacklock of Grosvenor showed Stan, Gerry, and David round the show flat at "The Foundry" flats on Fountainbridge north and was keen to hear about our ideas. In particular we discussed the use of the site between there and the student flats at Fountainpark. "Meantime" uses could include a festival tented venue or mobile Allotments (More below)
 5. **MEETING WITH POCHIN/NAPIER STUDENT ACCOMODATION** Stan and Pat will meet with Lara of Pochin next week to take all the ideas from the vision day to them and see what progress we can make on them. Particularly with regard to developing the canalside park.
 6. **RUBBER MILL ARTS CENTRE.** Pat has set up a meeting to consider this grade2 listed building on the corner of Dundee and Gilmore park (going to the lift bridge) as an arts centre/ craft units She has contacted arts organization and the meeting is planed for Monday 19th at 4pm
 7. **PROPOSED MEETING WITH GARVALD** Jane and Pat will meet with Garvald on Monday This is a large local social enterprise of the kind we would like to attract to the site. They will encourage them to get involved in developments.
 8. **PROPOSED MEETING WITH FOUNTAINPARK LEISURE.** Stan and Gerry will meet these guys soon as they are keen to work with a neighbourhood.
 9. **MOBILE ALLOTMENTS COME TO FOUNTAINBRIDGE!!!!!!!!!! URGENT CALL FOR GARDENERS;** SAGE (Sow and Grow Everywhere) an offshoot of the creative NVA group have met with Grosvenor developments on the last site to be developed on Fountainbridge North and are keen to create a mobile allotment site there!!!! The idea is that soil and growing medium is put into one ton builders bags and everything is grown in them. In two or three years when the developer wants to build, the bags are transported to another site. <http://sowandgroweverywhere.org/> . This is an exciting opportunity to get people in the city centre involved in growing their own food on unused sites. What needs to happen is that we get everyone who is interested to form a working group PRONTO!! As the growing season is upon us. Contact stan.reeves1@btinternet.com in the first instance and once I have heard from you I will arrange a meeting in the next week.

As you can see from the above the FCI steering have been beavering away since the vision day and much progress has been made. There is much to be done so we now need to form working groups. You should reply to this newsLetter by volunteering to get involved in any of the above otherwise we cannot take things forward. We need help with: COMMUNICATION, SOCIAL(Housing and Neighbourhood), RECREATION AND CULTURE(+HISTORY AND THE ARTS), LOCAL ECONOMY AND THE ENVIRONMENT. Please reply and let us know what you are interested in and if you have any skills, expertise or contacts which could help.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Stan Reeves

For FCI

