



NEWSLETTER November 2012

Community Design Workshop 7th November 2012

"The Glass-House Community Led Design" is a national charity working to help people make better buildings, spaces, homes and neighbourhoods. FCI were awarded a grant to enable Glasshouse to run this workshop to involve local people in a dialogue with the council who now own the whole canalside site, and other stakeholders.

Venue

The Workshop took place in a vacant office suite on the second floor of Quay 2 in Fountainbridge, Edinburgh, overlooking the entire site under consideration. Thanks are due to Lambert Smith Hampton and Cordea Savills

The Workshop was facilitated by Maja Luna Jorgensen of The Glass-House and Karen Cadell and Julia Neil of AREA Architects, Linlithgow.

Participants

There were 40 participants, drawn from a wide spectrum of interests:

17 from Fountainbridge Canalside Initiative (FCI), the community-based organisation

4 Councillors (including the Council Leader) and 6 senior officials from the City of Edinburgh Council, which owns the majority of the site, including representation from the Departments of Housing, Children and Families, Economic Development, Planning, and the Council's Design Leader; Riccardo Marini.

Representatives from 7N Architects who are the Master Planners for the site appointed by CEC; from the EDI Group, who manage property development projects on behalf of CEC; Grosvenor Estates, who own and are developing adjacent sites; the Development Trusts Association Scotland; Scottish Canals; Transition Edinburgh; and Historic Scotland; A Member of the Scottish Parliament for the Lothians;

Representatives of local interests including Canmore Dunedin Housing Association, Tollcross Primary School, Boroughmuir School Parents Council, the Adult Learning Project, the Pregnancy and Parents Centre, Grove Allotment Group and Tollcross Community Council. It was great to have so many of the main players in a very open and productive dialogue with local people before plans are drawn up.

We worked on MAPPING, OPEN SPACES, CULTURE AND COMMUNITY USE, MOVEMENT AND TRANSPORT, CHARACTER AND HERITAGE, ECONOMY AND ENTERPRISE. We thought about what makes a good neighbourhood? We looked at positive images of urban design, and we worked in 4 groups looking at different possible densities.

Throughout the day the participants were excited and inspired by the possibilities of creating a new mixed use neighborhood using the waterside as a central feature, and there was a real buzz of creativity. The event was recorded on paper and on film which will be shared with the master planners, and so has the real possibility of shaping the outcomes.

Pat Bowie, as Chair of FCI, thanked everyone for taking part and expressed particular appreciation on behalf of FCI for all the experts from the different organisations for giving their time and energy to the day. She thanked Jane Jones for all the time and energy she had put into organising it.

Riccardo Marini responded by stressing that the City Council now had a real appetite for this process of planning in engagement with the community. It had the potential to be the first place in Scotland which was truly a successful created neighbourhood. We were only now at the first stage of the process; the Council wanted to stay fully engaged for the whole journey.

Next Steps: - a report of the workshop will be completed by The Glass-House by the end of the year. We will then present this at a community event at the end of January, for wider community discussion. After this FCI will work towards a submission to the Council and EDI of the key elements the local community want to see in the Masterplan. In addition we will be working up a more formal understanding of the way in which FCI, and the local community, can continue to work in collaboration as the work progresses so we can truly influence the delivery of this exciting development.

December Drop-In: Saturday 8th Dec 11am - 3pm

Come along and find out what is happening. The 3D models we made about the site will be on display and FCI members will be there to talk to. We really want to hear from local people what your hopes and concerns are for this huge canal side site. All welcome! In Re-Union Boats Centre, Edinburgh Quay.

New School Moving Ahead

From Bruce Munro New School Project Co-ordinator: Planned activities include: Project team meeting at Allan Murray Architects, Design Team drop in session for Boroughmuir staff: Design team presentation to Boroughmuir staff: Project Team visit to Dundas House [to look at a good example of a multi-functional large communal space] : Project team visit to Lasswade and Eastwood High Schools [both Scottish Futures Trust exemplar schools] to look particularly at 'large spaces' e.g. performance and assembly areas: R Marini [City Design Leader] to meet with Pupil Council to talk about a number of forthcoming workshops : Investment Steering Group meeting including presentation from Design Team : Project Team visit to Edinburgh University Informatics building. Further planned activities include the Pupil Council working with Architecture and Design Scotland to investigate the use of outdoor space.

Rubber Mill

Building

Friday 23rd November 2012 There was a meeting with the folk below to begin to kick around a few ideas for the use of the old Rubber Mill offices still on site and protected by a grade 2 listing. We have talked about artist spaces, community groups and new business incubation and a hub for the new neighbourhood.. Pam Reeves, Richard Allen, Jane Jones(FCI), Simon Cage (Director of the Edinburgh International Science Festival) David Milne (Chair of the EISF Board), John Martin Scottish Brewing Archives Association, Kathleen Hill (Science Educationalist) John Campleton (NBR Wrinklies) met and discussed some other possibilities. A science centre could be housed in the building as an educational and interactive resource. Brewing and rubber making could be featured as well as the technology associated with the building of the Canal. The work of key Scottish scientists such as James Clark Maxwell could be presented.



Dear Friends,

The "Grove" Fountainbridge community garden project has had a bit of a hiccup! The steering group was trying to get some movement on the project, the initial setup of which had been handed over to SAGE from Glasgow. A meeting had been held with ERZ landscapers and Grosvenor developers then everything ground to a halt. Last month we learnt that the SAGE organisation has been wound up due to lack of funding and so will no longer be involved. This accounts for the lack of action in the previous months.

We had a very productive meeting with Robin Blacklock of Grosvenor Development, and he is still keen to work with us and develop the project. He has agreed to do the ground works and fencing required and to support the provision of planters, storage, security, and shelter.

We will now have to create an organisation he can relate to and formulate a project scheme of work.

To this end we are calling a meeting on **Monday the 10th of December@ 6:00PM** at the canal centre on Lochrin Basin to which you are all invited, and bring anyone else who wants to get involved. Following that meeting we plan to adopt a constitution at a public meeting on the 21st of January and elect a Convenor, Secretary and Treasurer.

I am sure we can make this happen. We have 90 local people on our mailing list, with wide and varied skills and talents. We should be planting in the Spring!!

Please join the Facebook group at <http://www.facebook.com/groups/TheGroveFountainbridge/> as this will continue to be the platform to keep up to date.

EDINBURGH CANAL FESTIVAL

More help needed if this great local festival is to continue this next year.. We will organize a planning meeting soon and will need some leadership from the local community. Get in touch if you can help!!!

TOLLCROSS WEE BOAT GROUP

Ed Hawkins has set up a Blog that tells of a very nice summer rowing despite the rain. Not much Canadian canoe activity. Let us know if you want to take a canoe out. Get in touch and watch this space.

<http://www.weeboat.org/blog/article/5>

The WBG has an Irish Currach, and 3 Canadian canoes by the canal Want to get involved? Contact Stan.reeves1@btinternet.com

**NEXT STEPS: Join the Steering Group on Tues 18th December
6.00pm Canal Centre Lochrin Basin.**

<http://www.fountainbridgeci.org.uk/>