



## **NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2014**

**A very happy and productive new year to all! (27 local organisations and 196 local folk)**

### **NEW BOROUGHMUIR HIGH SCHOOL**

Over the autumn period members of FCI attended stakeholders meetings at the city chambers and at the school. We were able to make our comments on the design. Our three concerns were with the access to the school over the Viewforth Bridge. The solidity of the eastern elevation creating canyon effect down view forth, and the design of the canalside park. An area to the west of the school was earmarked for a public park but is now the school playground, and the green space immediately in front of the school will be a shared space with the public having access out of school hours. We are not sure how this will work. We are concerned that the opportunity to make this public green space an attractive and significant feature along the canal is being diluted. We will continue to work with the design team on this. Visit the portal below to see the plans. The proposals will go for full planning permission and building is expected to start in 2015.

[http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20101/schools-buildings/2113/new\\_boroughmuir\\_high\\_school\\_project](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20101/schools-buildings/2113/new_boroughmuir_high_school_project)

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B4sntDLfgW\\_kRXVEdDQwdmhVRDV3dmd3dVNQWVVSvkNObWJv/edit?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B4sntDLfgW_kRXVEdDQwdmhVRDV3dmd3dVNQWVVSvkNObWJv/edit?usp=sharing)

### **THE MASTERPLAN FOR FOUNTAINBRIDGE**

Fountainbridge Community Consultation

The EDI Group Limited has hosted three Masterplanning and Placemaking workshops with the local community. These were held at the Central halls on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 24<sup>th</sup> September, and 2<sup>nd</sup> of November. FCI worked very hard with EDI to ensure that local people attended and had their voice heard. The numbers built over these workshops and the last was standing room only with 103 people in attendance. The workshops provided the community with the opportunity to meet the project team and to discuss with the master planners, 7N Architects, what they wanted to see Fountainbridge become. The workshops were a lively exchange of views and it was clear that everyone wants to step back from the image of the area as an extension to the financial district and to create a new and vital neighbourhood.

If you have any comments or feedback on the events or on the reports please contact:

Jen Blacklaw [jennifer@edigroupscotland.co.uk](mailto:jennifer@edigroupscotland.co.uk) 0131 474 7809

[http://www.edigroupscotland.co.uk/projects/8/91/Fountainbridge\\_Community\\_Consultation.html](http://www.edigroupscotland.co.uk/projects/8/91/Fountainbridge_Community_Consultation.html)

FCI prepared a detailed response to the report above with our concerns that not enough had been made of the waterside location and that there could be more housing, among other issues. FCI have secured a meeting with EDI and 7N architects where the response will be discussed. We will continue to lobby for the vision for the area, which has emerged over the last 2 years of public meetings and workshops. <http://www.fountainbridgeci.org.uk/sites/www.fountainbridgeci.org.uk/files/FCI%20%20Jan%202014%20Masterplan%20Comments.pdf>

EDI have submitted a "Proposal of Application Notice" to the council and the next steps will be to apply for planning permission for the Masterplan. To that end EDI will

hold a Public meeting to view the plan on March 27<sup>th</sup> 12-8pm at the Central halls, and there will be an exhibition from the 28<sup>th</sup> March till the 11<sup>th</sup> April in Fountainbridge library.

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B4sntDLfgW\\_kb1VDUGjrY2ZwZHM0N3c1Mlk4S3NJMXo4SnRr/edit?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B4sntDLfgW_kb1VDUGjrY2ZwZHM0N3c1Mlk4S3NJMXo4SnRr/edit?usp=sharing)

Have a look at the plans write to the planners, and come to the next round of meetings to have your say.

## **NAPIER STUDENT HOUSING**

This new build at the eastern end of the site has just accommodated 507 students and they have changed of use for a two story section from "Community Use" to a student union with all day license.

## **EASTERN SITE PLANS**

The Royal Bank of Scotland through it's offshoot West Register owns the eastern quarter of the site by the canal basin and has submitted initial plans for an apartment hotel, two office blocks, temporary parking, and a residential block. We wrote objecting to another Apartment hotel in the area and that we already have enough offices. We will keep you informed of further planning applications.

## **CANAL SOUNDING BOARD.**

Cllr. Andrew Burns, the leader of the council, continues to host these quarterly meetings, most recently in November and January. Much discussion taken up with the masterplanning process and has been a great opportunity with all the departments being involved, and other major stakeholders such as Scottish Canals, Historic Scotland, Forth Canoe Club, Dunedin Canmore, Housing, Grosvenor Developments.

Meantime developments are now being discussed with the positive example of the Grove Community Garden. Car parking, Covered markets, festival use, café, laying out temporary paths and access has been mooted. We will have an ideas generation at the FCI AGM.

## **DISTRICT HEATING**

**FCI**, working with Cllr Gavin Corbett (Green), brokered meetings with council officials, experts and masterplanners. A very positive outcome is that feasibility studies have proved favorable, and the masterplan will include a district heating scheme. EDI and officials are now working on the details. If implemented this will be a big carbon saver, and reduce heating costs

## **EDINBURGH CANAL FESTIVAL AND RAFT RACE.**

FCI and Re-Union continue to support this great community event, which we have decided to move back into June 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> to enable schools to get involved. Let us know if you want to take part or help with the running.

## **RUBBER MILL BUILDING REDEVELOPMENT**

Edinburgh Printmakers, as we have reported, are proposing to create a new workshop for themselves and other arts and maker organisations in this magnificent building. They have been successful in phase one of Lottery funding and are moving into the technical details. FCI with other local community groups wrote detailed letters of support for this Project and we are all hopeful of bringing this major arts development to the site.

## **WEE BOAT GROUP.**

Some of you may have seen the BBC2 Adventure Show special with Cameron McNeish "The Pilgrims Trail " which starred some of the wee boat group rowing the

Currach from Mull to Inchkenneth. Once the Quad at Portobello is back in action we will start rowing from there.

We are now in negotiation with Tollcross School to alter the boatshed to allow access without going into school grounds, and a more permanent tenancy arrangement. Contact [stan.reeves1@btinternet](mailto:stan.reeves1@btinternet) for more info and to access canoeing, rowing and building opportunities.

### **GETTING INVOLVED**

**Please come to our meetings. The more people do, the more we can achieve.**

**Date of Next Meeting** Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February 6pm

**AGM** will be Thursday 13th March 6pm Viewforth Church. The Lower Hall