

AA Community Engagement Group (AACEG)

Held at 10 Wyvern Park (invitation of Roger Kellett)
3.00pm Wednesday 26th June 2019

Present: Roger Kellett (RK), Grange Association (GA)
Nigel Ayton (NA), Marchmont & Sciennes CC (MSCC) and Grange Association
Tony Harris (TH) Grange Prestonfield CC
Sue Tritton (ST) Grange Prestonfield CC (GPCC) and Grange Association
Helen Zealley (HZ), Merchiston CC (MerCC)
Steve Gregory (SG) Morningside CC
Fiona Bell (FB) Morningside CC
Sofia Leonard (SL) Grange Association
Jo Doake (JDo), Grange Association
Peter Pitkin (PP) Grange Association

Apologies: Alan Farningham (AF)

1. Welcome and apologies: RK welcomed everyone and explained that this was a meeting of AACEG members only and that the AACT reps had not been invited this time. This was mainly because it was important to ascertain the views of AACEG members to the invitation to join the AACT Participation Request.

2. Meeting of 27 May with CEC, NHSL, AACT. RK, NA and AF had represented the AACEG. For the AACT Akiko had summarised the AACT consultation; Malcolm Fraser had said they wanted to give top priority to the open spaces, retain the listed buildings and also the pavilions, emphasise the southern aspect of buildings for sustainability purposes and restrict vehicles to the edges of the site. Will Garrett (CEC) had stressed that the site must be part of the surrounding community and not be an enclosed site. The place brief would replace the 2002 brief. It would be non-statutory guidance, material consideration leading to the master plan. They insisted that the only statutory policies are in the LDP. The 2002 Development Brief is similarly secondary to the LDP. Lesley Porteous (CEC) thanked AACEG for producing a draft "Place Brief" (done by NA).. Susan Falconer (CEC) said there would have to be various environmental surveys carried out. The CEC aim is to present the Place Brief to Committee on October 2nd. It was noted that although CEC had promised to provide minutes of this meeting none had yet been received. The next meeting for this joint group had been fixed for July 8th.

3. Actions required for AACEG.

- a) **AACT Participatory Request.** The AACT proposes to make a Participatory Request under the Community Empowerment Act and had asked if AACEG wishes to be part of that request. Those present were somewhat confused about whether it was necessary to do this as the AACEG had been set up by NHSL and were therefore already part of the formal consultation. There was also some confusion about whether this request related to the possibility of Asset Transfer (which the AACT wants) but which is not the remit of the AACEG. HZ would be attending a meeting of the AACT later this evening and might be able to get clarification. The meeting agreed that it would not be appropriate to be part of the AACT Participation Request; however, HZ could pass on our best wishes to AACT and offer support.
- b) **Doors Open Day.** RK had contacted Sheena Muir (NHSL) suggesting that the site could be open on Doors Open Day in September and that AACEG would offer walks round the site. SM had indicated support. She and her staff would organise the event and it might be possible to have some buildings open. It wasn't known if NHSL had officially contacted the Cockburn Association about this.
- c) **Meeting on July 8th.** Agreed that AACEG would be represented (as at the 27 May meeting) by RK, NA, AF and, possibly, HZ. A pre-meeting, possibly with the AACT reps, might be necessary and would then be arranged.

d) Questions to be raised on July 8th.

- i) Important to press CEC on the current status of the Place Brief and to ask for a draft to be circulated before the end of July to give time for comments.
- ii) Need to have the October Committee date confirmed and any other relevant time constraints.

4. AOCB

PP asked if we are correct in assuming that the sale of the site will be freehold. He said it's possible to create "conservation burdens" on pieces of land and wondered if we should be looking at this. He also considered that we might look at whether the sale of the land is in the public interest.

Sue Tritton, 27th June 2019

Amended RK, 29th June 2019