

BARBECUES

Message to the South Central Neighbourhood Partnership From Friends of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links (FOMBL)

We should like to support the memorandum that was agreed at the TIE committee on 13 September 2012, at which one of our members, Audrey Simon, made a presentation illustrating the damage caused by barbecues. Our newsletter editor, Heather Goodare, was also present and was asked to speak. She added a comment about her (frustrating) experience of trying to 'educate' the public about responsible barbecue use, while giving out the appropriate Council leaflets. Two other members of FOMBL were also present, one of whom added a comment about the problem of public urination, which affects her property in the Marchmont area.

The problems of barbecues on the Links and Meadows have been escalating in recent years, culminating in the mini-summer of March 2012, before the golf season began, when many people were barbecuing not only in the Meadows but also on the Bruntsfield short hole golf course and even on the golf greens. Repairs to the greens are still not complete.

They note that the Council cannot provide staff to monitor 'responsible use' of barbecues, and judge that the pilot scheme has been a failure. They note too the problem of public urination that is a consequence of the heavy drinking that often accompanies barbecues. There have also been examples of anti-social behaviour leading to arrest, and even a fire needing attention from the fire service.

FOMBL endorses the recommendation from the TIE Committee that the legal options open to the Council with regard to prohibiting barbecues on the Meadows be examined. They also ask for the provision of public toilets to be situated in the middle of the Meadows, preferably near the Pavilion. (The Pavilion Café cannot provide facilities for the general public.)

Heather Goodare
Newsletter Editor and Acting Convener, FOMBL