

Meadows and Bruntsfield Links (S/L) Working Group

Report on Meeting of 6 March 2009 at City Chambers Edinburgh

Matters arising from 6 September 2008!

1. Middle Meadow Walk/North Meadow Walk – top surface at junction has to wait until April warmth to be done, white line will be halved in width (100mm), and broken at junctions [David Doig];
2. Park Mgt. Group from local Comm. Councils will be convened again soon, to look at Chalmers Street entrance improvement work;
3. Cyclist usage - Cllr Rose asked for legal clarification;

Briefing Paper on Events

1. presented by David Jameson -
2. a note of comments made on 6 March will go with the Briefing Paper to Council Committee on 24th March. (*unclear who's note of which comments and who will approve accuracy*);
3. City-wide strategy will go to Council "later" - there "may" be consultation in advance;
4. There is no place for views of local people in the Events booking application process proposed in the Paper. There is no mention of Councillors, no reference to Neighbourhood Partnerships, or to Community Councils, or to Friends of Meadows and Bruntsfield Links. It is proposed "to review the current consultation and permission process" – no method is described for this;
5. No decision has yet been taken on the pending applications for Urban Circus [38 days occupancy Aug/Sep], and "Festival Fringe Sunday" [15 days in August], and no details of any funfair application;
6. **No consensus exists about the proposals or conclusions in Briefing Paper;**
7. General agreement that "a balance is needed", between commercial events on M&BL (which are assumed in the Paper to have a positive "economic impact" on Edinburgh), and the variety of regular recreational usage, because the 2007 and 2008 commercial usage was not sustainable;
8. The Briefing Paper proposes "a physical solution" to achieve this balance, by introducing unspecified "specialist surfaces" on parts of The Meadows area;
9. It states that "more work is needed on this", but there was no agreement at the meeting about the feasibility, likelihood or cost of such a solution;
10. **It was agreed that the "grasscrete areas" (currently installed) on the East Meadows are not a solution here;**
11. A set of 13 Best Management Principles from the USA Centre for Park Management appended to the Paper, was accepted as a basis for further discussion, with the addition of Monitoring and Enforcement of Licence Conditions;
12. The development of a Manifesto for the Meadows is suggested to the Council Committee, based on these 15 principles, but no timetable is mentioned for this;
13. **A Transition Plan is also suggested with "physical improvements", but this was not discussed. The implication is that the location elsewhere of three short duration events in 2009 will ease the way for Festival events;**
14. **It has to be insisted that the area of the East Meadows used in August and September 2008 for the Funfair and Urban Circus, has to this point been unusable for any recreational purpose, and that this goes against the stated purpose of the area;**
15. **It appears to be assumed by some officials and councillors that there already is an area earmarked for events. This must be refuted. It also needs to be made clear that there is no area where events take precedence over recreational use;**

Conclusions to the Briefing Paper.

1. **The proposed conclusions were not discussed.**
2. The agreement to relocate some 2009 events was an internal Council matter.
3. No agreement exists about the nature of physical solutions.

Chris Wigglesworth, 8 March 2009