

Volume 1 | Issue 5
Date

Liberton Association Newsletter July 2024

Welcome to the newsletter of the Liberton Association bringing you up to date with local news and the work of the Association.

Committee News

The Committee continues to meet regularly to discuss the way forward regarding the preservation of the local Greenbelt Land, Planning Applications, Local amenities and Local History.

We check planning applications and will notify members of any Applications which may have an impact on the residents of Liberton. In addition, we will raise local issues with the local Councillors and Authorities to have them resolved. Please keep notifying us through the website or email if you have any concerns in the local area.

We have two new committee members, Martin Reynolds and John Doohan, we welcome them both and thank them for their contributions.

The next Annual General Meeting should take place late in October 2024, the time and venue will be published by email and on our social media platforms.

Annual Membership

The annual memberships fees are due and are £5 per person. If you have not paid for the year Oct 2023-2024 this can be paid in cash or cheque to the Treasurer, Joan Foulner, at 9 Alnwickhill Road, EH166LG, or direct to the Bank of Scotland Sort Code [REDACTED] quoting your surname and initials in the payment reference box.

We will issue the Association Financial Accounts at the Annual General Meeting in October 2024.

‘Aboon the Kirk’ Version 3

Following on from the Edinburgh City Boundaries Centenary Project, which in 2020 celebrated 100 years since the Liberton area became part of the City of Edinburgh, the Liberton Association produced a booklet ‘Aboon the Kirk’. The booklet has interesting places and facts about the Liberton area including an associated walk. Version 3 of the booklet has now been completed and is

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ready for printing. This version will be accompanied by an aerial video of the sites with associated voiceover by celebrity Ian Stirling who is from Liberton.

The launch of the booklet and the video will take place in the Autumn, and we will invite you to join us in celebrating our local area and learning our local history.

Liberton Tower

Liberton Tower is of significant historical interest to our local story. It is owned by the Craigmillar Trust (CT), who also own much of the greenfield land in the surrounding area. Unfortunately, the Tower has been left unattended for 4 years and fallen into disrepair. The Association has worked tirelessly over these years to contact the CT and applied for the Tower to be placed on the 'Historic Buildings at Risk Register'. We are delighted to inform you that the Tower has now been leased and the new tenant, Lord Tankerville, will undertake the repairs and refurbishment and the future of the Tower is now secure.

We are not fully aware of Lord Tankerville's plans for the Tower but look forward to meeting him soon.

Current Planning News

1. City Plan 2030

The City of Edinburgh Council Planning Committee accepted the Reporter recommendations in June. The full council meeting on the 27th June adopted the modified City Plan 2030 as its Local Development Plan.

The modified plan has been submitted to Scottish Ministers, but with the summer parliamentary recess, it may be September before final approval is reached.

2. City Plan 2040

The Council is currently preparing a Participation Statement and inviting local communities to prepare Local Place Plans. The Participation Statement considers who is to be included and how the Council intends to involve different people within the process.

3. Kaimes Renewable Energy Development

A full planning application has been submitted for a Battery Energy Storage System) in the field to the west of the existing Kaimes Substation at Old Burdiehouse Road. The application is still awaiting assessment.

4. Liberton Hospital Site Development

A Development Information Forum has been established to consider, comment on and shape the regeneration proposals for the old Liberton Hospital site.

A meeting of the forum was held on 13th June 2024. The next stage will be the preparation of a Planning Application Notice (PAN).

5. Frogston Road East

Barratt & David Wilson Homes and the Trustees of the Catchelraw Trust have submitted an application for Planning Permission in Principle (24/01525/PPP) for a proposed residential and commercial development at Frogston Road East to the west of Broomhills Road.

933 comments, of which 897 were objections, were submitted. Liberton Association submitted an objection to the application, which is still under assessment.

6. Braid Hills Care Home

The Braid Hills Care Home on Liberton Drive will close on 22nd July 2024. This could be considered as a prime brownfield site for development. LA will keep a watching brief on this site.

7. Student Housing Development - Braefoot Terrace/Mayfield Road

The building of the second phase of this development is well underway and the manger has informed us that she has taken bookings for September 2024. The committee were invited to view the completed block a few months ago and met the Property Manager, Jennifer Finlay. The rooms are surprisingly spacious, and the building is at full capacity. Most of the students in residence are international students.

Liberton Amenities

Concerns relating to amenities in the area have been given to the Committee who have followed up with the Council and other relevant bodies. If you have any concerns please let us know.

Changing Rooms Liberton Park

Liberton Park is used by many in the local community for recreation, the playpark, and for football games. The Committee has been in contact with the Edinburgh South Community Football Committee (ESCFC) from Inch park and Edinburgh City Council, regarding the changing rooms (containers) which have fallen into disrepair. It is estimated that the cost for refurbishment will be approx £10,000 and the committee will support any fundraising plans to have the units restored.

Footpath at Alnwickhill Road Towards Stanedyke

You will be aware of the dreadful state of the footpath which is broken and uneven, it is currently unsafe for walkers and runners and impossible for people with buggies or wheelchairs. For many years now the Association has been in contact with the Edinburgh City Council (ECC) and the Agents representing the Craigmillar Trust (CT). Ownership and responsibility for the section of the path is in dispute with the ECC stating that as they have not taken over responsibility for this footpath, they cannot affect repair. CT state that they do not own this footpath and are therefore refusing to undertake repair. Matters are currently with the agents for the CT.

Floods In Liberton Brae

In the winter of 2022/23 due to severe weather and heavy rainfall there was flooding in the field behind the houses at the lower end of Liberton Brae. The houses were severely damaged, and families had to move out for a considerable time whilst repairs and drying took place. The Culvert at the bottom of the field is in disrepair and often blocked, in addition soil from nearby building works was displaced in the field causing the flooding water to divert towards the houses. Edinburgh City Council (ECC) have assessed the field and recommended two drainage suds/ponds to absorb the water and prevent further flooding. The ECC has costed the work and is willing to carry this out but needs permission from the owner of the field/land, Mr Drysdale, to carry out the essential work. The Committee are very anxious that this work can be carried out in a timely manner.

Proposal to establish a wildlife pond on a flooded area of the Wee Braids Golf Course.

LA are in contact with councillors and Edinburgh Leisure over the possibility of creating a pond on an area of scrub land at the edge of the golf course. A three-pond structure on this regularly flooded land, of varying depths, would alleviate localised flooding and provide a new habitat for insects, invertebrates and larger animals. We have met some initial resistance on health and safety grounds but hope to overcome this with a detailed plan.

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Litter Picks

Litter picks are continuing and will be carried out in conjunction with other local groups. Dates and locations will be advertised on our social platforms, you will be most welcome to join us, and equipment will be provided.

Protecting our local area

We are all enjoying the ability to use the local area for exercise and recreation, please use the area responsibly and with regard to local residents.

Please report any problems or issues.

If you have any comments please contact
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