

Campsie Community Council

Approved Minute

Monday 20 May 2024

Attended: Stuart Carr (Chair), Sue Mitchell (Treasurer), Fiona Muir, Louise Shovlin, Lorraine McDonald, Anne Marie Tomminey, Paul Ferretti (Councillor)

Apologies: Denise Lenaghan (Vice Chair), Sandi Bertagna (Secretary), Evelyn Cairney, Elaine McMillan, Dan Harris, Colette McDiarmid (Councillor).

Previous Minute: Agreed - proposed by FM and seconded by SM

Chair report: members of the Glazert restoration project consultation attended joining at 8pm which includes Kate Comins (CBEC) David Wallace (SEPA) Raj Kumar (EDC Flood Risk Engineer) and Stephen Egan (Team Leader Streetscene). A few members have attended the consultation.

SC: members from the Glazert subgroup has the opportunity to ask questions, members of CCC need to be impartial. Some areas of the Glazert does need maintained. Members of the subgroup have emailed MSPs.

PF: cannot comment due to his role in planning.

SC: gave details of the representatives attending (noted above) ... need to be respectful of everyone's views and build good working relationships. This is the pre-planning stage and an opportunity to get questions across and iron out any issues. On the Streetscene plans the ash/grass pitch at Station Road to be turned into wildflower meadow would it be possible to move back to Highland Spring and create a basin, upgrade the pitch and add in drainage? There is potential scope there.

Glazert sub-group representative (IM): first design appears to be flood prevention with ecological benefit, however no ecology report. Didn't put this in their application they're now saying it has nothing to do with flooding. We cannot engage if we don't know what they want to achieve.

SC: a lot of Lennoxton has disappeared and so much more can be done for the village. We can apply for funding for MUGGA for the children to play football.

PF: the primary school children will be able to use the new facility at the high park with teachers available. Intend to run on a Summer Camp with the EDLC. Will have the benefit of the high park pitch in the winter due to light and flooding.

IM: the Glazert Project has been going on since 2020, there was a questionnaire. EDC hadn't spoken to the people about a public consultation. The consultation on the 13 May was re-arranged, have the

impression they don't want to engage. Feel as if they're given incorrect information. The Garlic wood, an ecologist will say it is protected, there are 36 significant trees which could die as per their tree report. In terms of wetland do agree what they say as it will help with the flooding. Have concerns about the residents in Calico way.

SC: water environment fund and EcoLife – the project has closed money provided by EU. There were two rivers mentioned which was the Tyne and Glazert. We are no longer part of EU and unsure where funding would come from possibly Enviro.scot, which EDC have access to. We are not against the restoration we do require clarity and final plans. The Greystones are dangerous, does need attention, they are two sewage pipes which are leaking, but the Garlic wood does not need to be touched. Put in wetlands into industrial areas which are potentially contaminated ... may have heavy metal contaminants. Can ask why they are putting scrapes in potential contaminated areas. It is at pre-application stage with no clear plan ... suggested that the sub-group deal with all the questions as CCC must remain impartial.

DW: four rivers across Scotland which need assistance, funding from EcoLife fell away and restored to funding from the Council. The main aim of the river restoration is to naturalise the Glazert and get it as close as possible to being a natural river once again. EcoLife first report identified the areas Fin Glen and the Pow Burn plus an area of the weir which needs work on. Have new funding from Water Environment Fund which provides funding to restore Scotland's rivers, lochs, streams etc. Aims to restore where historical activities have left damage. The fund is managed by SEPA and comes from the Scottish Government.

Why is there no flood defence on the right-hand side?

DW: the old hospital site has existing walls and flood defence in Castle Circle. There is a secondary wall which was added by NHS which runs parallel with the pathway. The old flood walls protect the site, no need to restore anything on the right-hand side and the focus is on the left side.

SC: the ancient woodland has an ecosystem and habitat.

DW: the project is a restoration project, to improve the condition of the river and the physical passage. There is flood risk modelling, but the aim is purely restoration to benefit the river, it's ecology, fishing etc. It's an environmental project with money being spent in Lennoxton to improve the Glazert.

RK: they are representatives of the project group and even though he's a flooding officer involved in other restoration projects. No increase to the flood risk of the Glazert.

DW: there is a team of 16 specialists and RK is council representative.

KC: would not be able to apply for planning if the project was going to increase flood risk. It has been designed not to increase.

DW: have not been granted land-owner permission to carry on the project in Milton of Campsie, the funding is purely to restore the river going through Lennoxton. The consultation has a questionnaire and planning will consider the responses.

SC: Glazert Wood is considered an ancient woodland and conservation area plus the John Muir pollinator way has been enhancing and creating habitat for pollinators along the route of the John Muir Way. This area is a historic asset.

DW: there is other funding they can tap into however, restricted as the fund is solely for restoration on the river only.

KC: the woodland floods around every 10 years. They are trying to achieve little scrapes as possible.

SE: the woodland has not been managed for decades. Need to remove dead and damaged trees. The area is being dominated by species such as Ash, Sycamore and Japanese Knotweed. There are many trees which are resilient along with the bluebells and wild garlic.

DW: In terms of the consultation put your ideas forward

SC: are we able to apply for other funding?

DW: there is other funding, but they cannot apply. There is Nature Funding Scotland which the community can put forward a proposal to restore wildlife and habitats.

How accurate are the flood models?

KC: It's a state-of-the-art model which is used for all their schemes.

DW: the flood risk model is standard; the project would not be allowed to go ahead if they did not have robust checks completed.

Is there any scope to change the area proposed to work on to Station Road?

DW: they are only able to work on that specific area which is around 2km. The consultation welcomes everyone's comments as the river is no longer natural.

KC: they are not proposing flooding the Garlic wood at all and welcome comments if the community do not want it restored. To consider Station Road area would need topographic survey and hydrological assessment.

RJ: the options are the chosen options and Hodgkins report would have ruled out the Station Road area.

SC: would consultation team members be willing to attend a walk around? All agreed and dates shall be arranged.