

**THE FRIENDS OF LENZIE MOSS**  
**YEAR 2019-20**  
**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 2019 AGM**

Plans for the boardwalk – discussions with EDC still ongoing.

Notice board at the station entrance – now installed.

Paths – see below.

Local Development Plan – see below.

**CORONAVIRUS**

Because of the restrictions imposed by the government on public meetings, the committee decided that they could not hold the normal AGM this year. Instead, the AGM documents would be circulated to members for comments, and a report on these circulated to members thereafter.

We understand from our mailbox that the path round the Moss is being well-used, and that everyone is appreciating the respite that the Moss provides for us during this time. There have been reported lapses in social distancing during this time but after reminder notices were put up by ourselves and EDC, we hope that this has now improved.

Activities on the Moss, including non-urgent conservation work, are currently on hold.

We still hope to issue our 2020 summer newsletter, and more of this nearer the time.

**CONSULTATIONS**

- **LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

EDC issued its Main Issues Report (MIR) for consultation in October 2019. We attended one of the drop-in sessions on 25 October, and also studied the MIR document itself to see if any of the proposals were likely to affect Lenzie Moss.

The only proposal that had the potential to affect Lenzie Moss was Site reference S46. This is a re-submission of a development proposed in the last Local Development Plan, namely a development on the sports pitches at the top of Boghead Rd.

We reported on this in more detail in the Winter 2019-20 newsletter.

- **FOOTFALL COUNTER**

We continue to monitor the footfall counter along Bea's Path. The winter 2019-20 Newsletter contained figures for the period to September 2019, and a full report covering the period October 2019 to June 2020 will appear in our 2020 summer newsletter. We're expecting, unsurprisingly, that the footfall count during the coronavirus lock-down period will show a marked increase in traffic. At some point we will have a discussion with EDC to see what implications the footfall counter data has for the Moss.

- **PATHS OVER THE MOSS**

Keeping the paths well maintained is regularly on our Agenda with EDC.

After raising objections with them to the initial proposals to improve Bea's Path we were pleased to see that the path was then widened and improved in a manner more fitting to a nature reserve.

After attending EDC's Local transport Strategy consultation on 30 October, we ascertained that the railway path improvement is still on hold. We will be involved in any future consultation.

We hope that improvements to the circular path will continue during the coming year.

## **NEW BENCH**

We were delighted to facilitate Merlwood Nursery's wish to contribute a bench to the Moss, in recognition of their children's outdoor play sessions on the Moss. The bench is located alongside the path near to the top of Heather Drive.

## **VANDALISM**

Our noticeboard at the top of heather Drive has again been covered with graffiti. The committee decided to leave cleaning this off until the winter, as we did last year, to avoid encouraging a repeat performance. The police have been informed.

## **FACEBOOK**

Our Facebook page now has around 700 followers, and we receive messages on a regular basis. The most common subject is the boardwalk, and we welcome feedback on any path-related issues to the site. When followers share our posts, we have seen the reach of posts to be over 5000 people. The most popular posts have been information on events, namely Harry Potter broom-making and mini beast hunts.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

We have been pleased to welcome a number of new members resulting from the increase in visitors taking exercise during the lock-down.

## **THANKS**

Finally, I would like to thank all the committee members for their efforts over the past 12 months. We are stretched at the moment and are having to limit our activities as a result. For example, we would like to organise activities on the Moss in addition to those provided by the Mugdock Rangers as we have done in the past, but we need someone to take a lead on this with the help of the committee. We have also not managed to replace our membership secretary. The latter is now quite standardised electronically, but it needs someone to keep it up to date. We're a friendly bunch on the committee and would welcome new members to join us! Others' ideas are always a bonus too.

I should also like to thank Jackie Gillespie in the EDC Streetscene department, and Maggie Ferguson and Alan McBride of the Mugdock Rangers. All of these people take a great interest in the Moss, Jackie in terms of facilitating conservation works and looking after the Moss's protection, and Maggie and Alan for leading day-to-day conservation work with volunteers, and providing various activities on the Moss for the public. We value tremendously our partnership with them in looking after the Moss.

CHRISTINE MORRISON  
CHAIRPERSON