

**Foyers Bay Steering Group Meeting – Notes**

**Date: 18th April 2024**

**Meeting time: 7pm**

**Meeting location: The Hub, Lower Foyers**



**Present:** Malcolm Stewart (MS) – Chair,Caroline Tucker (CT)

Bob Main (BM), Vaughn Devlin (VD)

**Apologies:** Craig Lightbody, Ken Sinclair, Alfie Taylor

1. **Welcome**
2. **Actions arising from previous steering group meeting:**
3. **Information received from Highland Council and communications with SSE.**

* CT updated those present that we had received a detailed report from the Highland Council outlining previous surveys done in the area, which ascertained that the area is ‘safe to human health’. She read out a paragraph in the report stating that ‘*Made Ground materials were clearly visible within the embankment to the north of the Fish Hatchery compound and concrete blocks could also be seen on the lower ground close to the embankment. To the rear of the fish hatchery and on the eastern side there are steep slopes approximately 3m in height thought to have been created from the dumping of waste from the aluminium smelting process’*, acknowledging the presence of waste material.
* CT also updated that the above information was forwarded to SSE as leaseholders. No response has been received. Discussion had about how to proceed, consensus is that we have done our due diligence and can move forward with landscaping works, as long as care is taken and SSE are kept informed.
* BM asked how long SFCT’s lease of the site was. CT to confirm this.

1. **Contractors for Landscaping works**

* CT updated that we have put the landscaping works out to tender, from which we have had a couple of responses, and MS has spoken to George Borthwick. BM has been in touch with Norman Campbell of JS Campbell Contractors and will have a further conversation and arrange a meeting on site, with MS.
* Discussion had on what to do with the materials, particularly as we do not know what may be uncovered. Consensus was that it should be used for immediate landscaping works, such as creating a bund at the top of the cutting to prevent vehicles going over the edge, and the remaining, usable, materials stockpiled for future landscaping. Where waste material is discovered SFCT will investigate appropriate disposal, as required.
* BM estimated that the proposed work should be between £3k and £5k.
* **Action – CT, MS and BM to contact interested parties to arrange site visits and ask contractors to provide quotes for proposed work.**

1. **Installation of floating moorings**

* MS summarised that these are ready to order, but SFCT finance team have asked for an alternative quote to show value for money. Gaelforce are the only provider up here, the best other alternative is Walk-on Marine, who are in England. MS has been in touch, so will chase up the quote.
* Once we are in a position to order the moorings, they will take half a day to install.
* Discussion had about how we monitor use. CT working on terms and conditions. MS pointed out that he, or one of his crew, are usually not far away so they can keep an eye on them.
* **Action – MS to arrange further quote for finance team.**

1. **Signage**

* CT shared the mock-up sign provided by The Sign Centre, for a cost of £88 + VAT per sign. Quote also provided by Fraser Signs for £81.50 + VAT, but we are still waiting for a design. Those present agreed to go ahead with the sign provided by The Sign Centre, and to order 6.
* **Action – CT to contact sign centre and place order.**

1. **Installation of electric bollard**

* CT outlined that a quote had been obtained from MU Electrical, who have recently done some work for SFCT at Wildside.
* MS expressed concern that what has been quoted for may not be quite what is required. Ideally what we are looking for is a marina or caravan site style bollard with 2 sockets.
* Discussion had on whether a system of payment by users is required – if we have one, should it be coin, token or card operated?
* Consensus was that more detail is required before this work can take place. **Action – MS to speak to MU Electrical.**

1. **Next steps:**
2. **Purchase of a shed/ changing facility and available funding – pin down requirements**

* CT noted that an action in the previous meeting was to do some research into the possibility of erecting a basic building on the site that could house changing facilities/ meeting space for example. Robbie Burn, in his capacity as CAP Officer, did some research into this, and identified that it is possible to purchase and install a temporary building with 2 showers, 4 toilets, basic kitchen facilities and a meeting space for around £50k. CT pointed out that we do not have the budget for this, but there might be an opportunity for Matt, our Facilities Officer, to work with volunteers to provide a basic hut and workshop if this is what is required.
* MS queried the need for a building at the moment – should the focus not be on the shoreside plan for this year?
* BM also pointed out that we would need a septic tank if installing toilets/ showers. The existing septic tank is on the other side of the tail-race, would need SSE permission, but could potentially link in with that.
* VD asked if a survey had been done at any stage to identify what the community would like to see on the site.
* CT responded that there had not been one for a while, and that she had suggested it in a previous meeting, but it would be sensible to do this before putting in a building in order to identify the wants and needs of the community.
* CT also pointed out that we would need to demonstrate the wants and needs of the users to apply for funding, so a survey is a good way to do this. She also mentioned that there may be issues for applying for funds for a building on this site as it is leased and we would not be looking at a permanent structure. **Action – CT to discuss this with fundraisers.**
* Consensus is that we focus on further landscaping, installation of moorings and shoreside works this summer.

1. **Review of terms and conditions**

* CT updated that she had been working on this by consolidating what SFCT has already and looking at other, similar, facilities elsewhere, but there is a lot of variation in what is provided at different facilities. She is focussing on what is required for floating moorings just now, but more work is required for the overall facility.
* Discussion had on need to charge users in order to cover costs of electricity, purchase and inspection of moorings.
* A booking system is required for each mooring – suggest each mooring is identified, either by colour or number, and a log is kept of who has booked each one. Use will need to be managed – bookings made for a 7 day period, which can be renewed at the end of this period depending on demand. Suggested fee of £10 for 7 days, and possibly introduce a penalty if booking is over-run?
* VD suggested using Fare Harbor as a booking system. CT to look into this.
* **Actions – CT to continue work on updating terms and conditions. CT to investigate Fare Harbor booking system.**

1. **AOB**

* BM mentioned the soil that he had brought down to the site, and acknowledged that it was contaminated. It is possible to remove contaminants but if it is not required, it can be moved. BM and MS to liaise on this.

Next meeting Thursday 16th May 2024.

Meeting closed 8.15pm