

MABLAG, 16th May 2016

The Mabltag meeting yesterday was very useful

Following Fernando's email

The use of disposable barbecues was discussed and how to educate people about the damage caused if they don't use the designated areas; Heather has said that FOMBL may be able to have volunteers on the Meadows on hot days and evenings, giving out the information leaflets and advising people how they might mitigate the effects of the heat on the grass; using a pad or raising the BBQ up off the grass with anything available.

Following the meeting I have been to Edinburgh Bargain Stores and discussed with them having the leaflet alongside the BBQ's. They will consider ordering the pads that go under the unit when I provide them with the name of the supplier. Heather has just sent the information to me so I will take it forward.

The issues raised on Hilary's behest were addressed

The meeting was very angry about the Underbelly been given permission to extend the event for another 4 days This decision was made by Lesley Hinds without any consultation with the parks dept or Mabltag. Jim Orr and Melanie Main were also frustrated about this it is non-negotiable even though Mabltag was assured that there wouldn't be another extension.

Improving the facilities in the Meadows is a financial one; if the Council honours their commitment (as agreed last year) to ring fence the income it generates year on year; and allow the Meadows to have the benefit, there could be an increase in the wardens and the facilities including a multi-gym and hopefully the toddlers play area.

The un-named path will be resurfaced as a part of the ongoing plan, I assume the one that needs doing is to the south of the courts in the triangulation with the Boroughloch and N Meadow walk.

Mike Shields agreed to put more signs up re 'No Dogs' in the toddler play area he is aware of the problem and says it is also an issue of dog owners using the tennis courts as a dog toilet.

The Southside Community Council need to agenda the name of the unnamed path at the next meeting. FOMBL have put forward "William Burnes" named after Robert Burns' father, who apparently worked on the draining of the loch.

I suggested that this was rather oblique and perhaps something associated directly with Edinburgh would be appropriate e.g. Patrick Geddes, the architect and visionary for the old town development or Muriel Spark who has a strong association with the area. There may be other suggestions that can be discussed at Mabltag if the SSCC want to make any other suggestions. Andy Murray, as he is a living person, is not a possibility.

The bins are all being marked with large stencils giving the designation of each bin.

I also raised the issue raised by Joan re the cars parking on the Meadows (runners, parents of children playing football, general users). This is tricky as it is not, strictly speaking, against the traffic regulations, traffic wardens have no jurisdiction, rangers can advise but not enforce the issue. Mike Shields has agreed to put more logs along the edge of the grass to discourage the car owners parking.

The minutes were taken by Gareth Thomas who will do them ASAP with the caveat that they do not have any priority in his workload.

Kaaren Haughton