

FRIENDS OF GLASGOW'S LOCAL NATURE RESERVES

ANNUAL REPORT 2011-12 - JIM COYLE (CHAIR)

1. Background

At the Urban Biodiversity Conference held at Glasgow University on 30-31 October 2010, a number of people showed an interest in setting up a 'Friends of Glasgow's Local Nature Reserves'. With the support of Glasgow City Council staff, an evening meeting was held in April 2011, a Group constitution approved and a committee elected as follows:

Chair – Jim Coyle;
Vice-chair – Eilidh Spence;
Secretary – Toby Wilson;
Treasurer – Agnes Gunn;
Committee members – Valerie Charlton, David Palmar; and Bo Wang.

2. Group Objectives and Achievements

Working to the Constitution's Objectives, the Committee has, taking each in turn, achieved the following in our first year:

(i) Raise awareness of Glasgow's Local Nature Reserves and the variety of wildlife to be found in the City;

Achievements

- Initial meeting held, presentation made on LNRs in the City and Friends of Group created.
- Two Newsletters published.
- 'Friends' web site created and updated providing information on LNRs and Group activities.
- GCC LNR leaflets distributed at walks, talks and events.
- Stall at GCC Biodiversity Event at Hogganfield Park LNR.
- Three talks presented by Jim Coyle – two on 'Wildlife of Greater Glasgow' (to RSPB Glasgow Local Group and SWT Clarkston & East Kilbride District Members' Centre) and one on 'Local Nature Reserves in Glasgow' (to South Glasgow Heritage & Environment Trust).
- Guided walks organized for Dawsholm Park LNR and Hogganfield Park/Cardowan Moss LNRs

(ii) Lobby the Council to ensure that this environmental resource is protected, managed and enhanced; and

(iii) Engage with the Council and other organizations, groups and individuals to promote partnership working aimed at benefiting LNRs and other wildlife sites as well as the people who visit and enjoy them;

Achievements

- Sent supportive comments to GCC in respect of GCC proposal to declare Linn Park as a LNR.
- Offered support and advice to the project officer of the 'Seven Lochs Project'.
- Worked with GCC-LES and GCC-Glasgow Community Safety Services to successfully request that a Community Reparation squad be utilised to clean-up fly-tipping at entrance to Commonhead Moss LNR.
- Sent comments in respect of fallen/wind-blown trees at Dawsholm Park LNR and the potential for some of them to be chipped and utilised as a path surface.
- Liaised with GCC-LES over a potential project to improve/create entrance features to Commonhead Moss LNR with a view to undertaking work in 2012-13.
- Attended a meeting of the 'Barmulloch Strategy Group' to commend the setting up of a 'Friends of Robroyston Park LNR'.

- Represented on GCC's Hogganfield Park LNR Steering Group.
- Worked with RSPB Glasgow Local Group to organise guided walk in Hogganfield Park & Cardowan Moss LNRs.
- Attended meeting with the 'Friends of Rouken Glen Park' to provide advice on pond naturalisation and wildfowl.

(iv) Organise and support practical conservation days and/or events in Glasgow's LNRs or other wildlife sites; and

(v) Raise funds for specific projects aimed at enhancing the LNRs or other wildlife sites, for the benefit of wildlife and/or people.

Achievements

- Obtained grant from CSV/SNH for Dawsholm Park event. This resulted in -11 woodcrete bird nest boxes erected in Dawsholm Park LNR.
- the purchase of resources i) Collapsible table; ii) A 'Friends' banner; iii) A ladder; and iv) Two bird feeders.
- Manned a stall at GCC Biodiversity Anniversary Event at Hogganfield Park LNR.
- Persuaded GCC staff to design a pedestrian traffic island on Avenue End Road to facilitate access between Hogganfield Park and Cardowan Moss LNRs.
- Obtained grant from FCS and GCC North East Area Committee towards building a pedestrian travel island between Hogganfield Park and Cardowan Moss LNRs.

3. Outstanding Issues

1) Dogs in Local Nature Reserves & other Green Spaces

Unfortunately, despite 2 letters, the response from GCC was not helpful.

The Group has suggested a potential solution to part of the problem – the licensing of professional dog walking companies - but this was rejected. GCC feels that existing rules are sufficient. This requires people to complain and provide 'proof' of their being a problem.

There was no response to the issue of cars regularly parked on pavements and across the 'keep clear' box next to a barrier that would require to be opened to provide emergency access to the River Kelvin.

2) Group Logo

Pleased to report a logo has been designed; a big thank you to Sandy Grant.

4. Thank You

I would just like to finish by thanking all of the Committee for their support, ideas and hard work. I would also like to thank those that took the time and trouble to join the Group and all those officers at Glasgow City Council that were supportive of our aims and objectives.