



LORD MORAY'S PLEASURE GROUNDS NEWSLETTER – NOVEMBER 2012

Chairman's Comments

Welcome to the Christmas edition of the Moray Feu newsletter. I hope you will be able to come to the party on the 18th of December at 2 Ainslie Place.

The Committee takes this opportunity to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year

Colin Mitchell-Rose, Chairman

Gardens

Bank Gardens

The Contractors working at no 29 Moray Place requested permission to use the rear access through the gardens for bringing in plant and removing soil. Given the history of land slippage in the gardens, the Committee asked for an independent engineer's report before any work was allowed. We are still waiting for this and the Contractor's modified proposals. The replacement fence along the Water of Leith walkway was finally given planning permission in October and work should be finished shortly. This will provide additional security to the gardens. More daffodils and primroses have been planted.

Moray Place

The old Wych Elm at the south side of the gardens was showing some worrying signs of disease, but following some pruning and disinfecting by Frontier Forestry, we hope that the tree will have many more years of life. Unfortunately some of the canker-infected Chestnuts are not looking so healthy and may need to be felled. Frontier Forestry also carried out some pruning on dangerous or damaged branches and also trimmed back some of the more rampant hollies in the middle roundel. The grass is still in quite a water-logged and tender condition, so dog owners are asked to prevent their dogs from

doing too much damage by chasing sticks and to replace any divots that may inevitable be caused.

Ainslie Place

Some tree branches overhanging the main road were successfully trimmed back during the summer.

Randolph Crescent

The promised reinstatement of part of the paths will be carried out over the winter and some additional bulb planting has been done on the banks

Colin Mitchell-Rose,
Gardening Subcommittee

Waste

Friday food waste collections are uplifted anytime from 7am, so please put your food bins out early. It is now possible to use normal supermarket plastic bags inside the food bins instead of expensive biodegradable ones. Red and blue recycling boxes are still picked up on a Monday as previously.

The Council intends to phase out twice-weekly collections of general waste, moving to a weekly service using either gull proof bags or communal wheelie bins. According to the Modernising Waste newsletter, August 2012, residents will be consulted on their preferences.

Fran van Dijk

Traffic

'Progress with United Nations, but Council continues to promote displacement of HGVs into residential streets of the West End'

WANTED: Medically qualified reviewers for pollution health impacts paper and

more followers on Twitter!

Take a look at www.edinburghtramfacts.com or [#Edinburghtramfacts](https://twitter.com/Edinburghtramfacts) on twitter.

Those of you who have seen press reports of the case we presented to the UN may be interested to see how it was described by the Aarhus Compliance Committee secretariat (16 Oct 2012):

The findings on [the case] have actually made a very important contribution to the interpretation of the Convention regarding the release of raw data, which has important jurisprudential value for the implementation of the Convention's provisions on access to information. On the basis of this interpretation, the Committee makes recommendations to the Parties on how to best implement the Convention. And it has recommended so to the UK.

The UK was found to have breached the Aarhus Convention because of the City of Edinburgh's refusal to share pollution data as it became available with the people living in the streets affected. The Council has now decided that they will share data.

Freedom of Information requests revealed that Council officials decided to stop sharing data because of fears that we would show this displacement of traffic simply creates new streets that fail EU limits for air pollution. If Council predictions of traffic increases even 'with Tram' are correct, then funneling all HGVs through narrow residential streets is not only moving the problem, it makes it worse.

The Council's own measurements already show a large increase in air pollution in residential streets of the West End, but what it does not seem willing to acknowledge is that by moving this pollution from non-residential commercial streets, it also increases net exposure to these pollutants with significant health and quality of life impacts.

This is why we are appealing for medically qualified residents to review our reading of the health literature - we have measured

increases in noise of 10dBA and NO₂ of 10ug/m³ - but the expected impact on life expectancy is a far more compelling statistic for Edinburgh's balance sheet (contact details below).

Charlotte Square Development - closure to HGVs

This proposal has been held back by the Director of Services for Communities until the Council meeting on 15 January 2013 to discuss 'public realm' changes. If approved, these will literally cement further traffic displacement and have the direct consequence of making Randolph Crescent - Great Stuart Street the only unrestricted route for HGVs through the city. We will circulate an e.mail about this when we know more, so please send us your address if you are not already on our list (contact details below).

Planning the future - a new 'Traffic Forum'

Though the Council have yet to publish any map of their intended routes for post-Tram traffic they have decided to ask 'stakeholders' what they want to see happen. This is a welcome initiative, however Residents Associations do not have any automatic right of representation and Council officials will vet applications. Since there are only 6 places it is important for as many people as possible from areas directly affected to apply. Details on how to do this are at edinburghtramfacts.com

Getting the message out on-line

We need people to actively blog and comment on the articles we distribute via our website to the newspapers, TV and radio. The interest that is shown allows these media to pick up on the major stories, and more input from all ages will really help.

To find out more just get in touch by emailing moreinfo@edinburghtramfacts.co.uk.

If you are interested in helping in any way please contact us at the above e.mail address or via Whitelaw Wells.