

Northfield and Willowbrae Community Council



Scott Thomson
Community Parks Officer
The City of Edinburgh Council
Services for Communities
East Neighbourhood Centre
101 Niddrie Mains Road
Edinburgh
EH16 4DS

2 Hamilton Terrace
Edinburgh
EH15 1NB

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Dear Scott

BARONSCOURT IMPROVEMENT PLAN

I write to give you the output from the consultation meeting we held on 24 February about the Council's outline plan for Baronscourt Park – and that is the annex to this letter. Councillor Joan Griffiths was present throughout the meeting. We pushed hard for people to use their imagination about what they would like but, as you will see, little of what is proposed received much of a welcome.

Ball Games

It was evident that many people thought there were formal, perhaps legal, prohibitions on ball games in the Park. Several mentioned planning conditions connected with the Morrisons/Safeway site so these would be 20 years old if they exist. However, the mood against ball games in general and specifically the Lochend club 7-a-side pitch was very strong. That said, another group spoke strongly on the need to provide for children's play in a clean and dog free area. Overall, people seemed to want the basics of maintenance being done effectively before football.

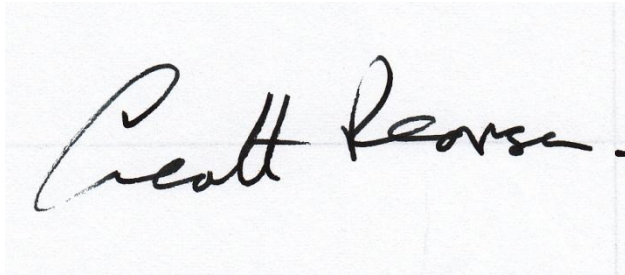
Morrisons

We were able to limit the discussion on the access to the store, on the basis of the ongoing conversations.

We hope this is helpful to you; we would be very happy to assist the Council in this way again. We will be publishing this report on our website.

I am copying this to Councillors Griffiths, Lunn and Tymkewycz and to Derek McGowan.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature reads "Geoff Pearson" in a cursive style. The first name "Geoff" is written with a large, looped 'G' and a small 'P' above it. The last name "Pearson" is written in a more standard cursive. A horizontal line is drawn through the signature.

Geoff Pearson
Secretary

BARONSCOURT PARK IMPROVEMENTS:

CONSULTATION MEETING HELD BY THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL: 24 February 2015

22 people attended the meeting and left contact details. Of these, at least 12 were from South Elixia Place, 3 from Baronscourt Terrace, the others included Northfield Heights, Northfield Broadway, Piershill Terrace, and Willowbrae Road. 4 left email addresses.

In the discussion the wish for a path to Morrison's was taken as a given and little discussed. The tables below give the individual written responses left by participants.

What do you <u>like</u> about the Park
Open space
That ball games are currently not allowed/encouraged. It is relatively quiet
No ball games at present as per original planning conditions
At the moment I like the feeling of being wild and very much in the country. On a night you can hear foxes etc. I would like it kept as it is, jut looked after in a better way
Nothing (<i>sic</i>) the park is in good shape as it is no extra "improvements" needed
Open space
Nothing – it's a mess. Only thing it is a short cut to Morrison's
It is a short cut to Morrisons
It was a nice park in 1994-1995, rose bushes. Benches and children play <u>area</u> all were destroyed and something beautiful to look from my bedroom window would be nice (but it is a pipe dream)
Leave the park as it is, as a lovely green area surrounded by trees
I am glad to see the allotments. At least the park is being used.
The allotments
Short cut to Morrison as it is awful park
Allotments add a purpose to the park
Wild area of trees left alone for wildlife and where children can play and climb trees. Allotments have definitely enhanced it in my view and created a focal point. More people stop to talk. Snowdrops beautiful in spring and view to Arthur's Seat is beautiful

What <u>don't</u> you like?
Dog walkers and needle users loitering there
That it is poorly/not maintained – muddy leafy path, wood/landscaping not husbanded/managed. Do not like idea of “structured” ball games being encouraged
Suggested use for – footballs – no ball games should be permitted as this will attract trouble
Don't like the idea of trees being taken down and more wildlife being disturbed. The grass cutting is terrible and makes it uneven to walk on let alone play ball games on.
The lack of maintenance out on the park. Organised football games being carried out in the park
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More paths across park • Pitch – football games – these were held next door on school's grounds • Removing any trees or grass(!)
The idea of organised football, especially from people outwith the community.
People taking a short cut through Elixia Place to the Park and leaving a mess in our estate
The way the public disrespect we in the houses get all the rubbish at our back fence and in the back garden (no football pitches – plenty in the community centre)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definitely no football pitch!! • Grass not cut enough • Park neglected • <u>No seats please</u> • Access for vehicle to be made through Baronscourt Terrace as well
The untidiness of the path – grass verges. Cleanup litter and dead bushes
Very dirty and not very pleasant to walk through as it is full of dog poo.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I was unaware of the park used by drug users • Dog users not clearing up after their dogs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State of park with dog litter etc • To hear that it is used by heroin users
Dog dirt and litter. Lack of wildflower areas Through route to Morrisons makes it less safe as more easily accessible to people who might not otherwise bother making the effort to get there

One thing <u>you</u> would like to see
Benches
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some planting to the bare area on the right hand side of the path as you enter from Baronscourt • Better maintenance generally • Maintenance of access bollards which have been left down at South Elixia end on numerous occasions
Better maintenance of pathway (existing) Better drainage adjacent to path
Leave the park as it is, no more paths etc just keep paths cleaned and more wild flowers planted. Some type of lighting is needed also.
More maintenance ie grass cutting and tree pruning
<u>Path to Morrisons</u> More wildlife, trees, wildlife habitats More or less leaving things as they are (ie no ongoing maintenance costs from Council's present and future budget cuts)
The grass getting cut more often } Maintenance Bins being emptied more often } Lighting
Grass in park and trees Council to keep it
Lights in park on a health and safety
Left with grass and trees trimmed Council clear up mess as public should not clear up other people's mess Bins in park emptied regularly
Council to keep it in good condition Dog wardens to patrol more
Children's play area – free from dogs –special dog area (1/4 of park) Definitely path through to Morrisons and existing path re-surfaced
Children's "play" area
Children's play area
Cleaner, tidier, paths repaired A safe place for children to play
Park tidied up and properly maintained. Footpaths cleaned up Trees properly treated Somewhere for children to play
More biodiversity – areas to encourage wildlife, eg wildflower area, wooded areas left (and managed to encourage other tree species). Bird boxes (I have put one up as an experiment)

Other issue mentioned: Friends group for park

BARONSCOURT PARK IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Notes for opening presentation based on discussions with Scott Thomson. The Council's consultation drawing was available in large format.

5 year programme

Nothing set in stone

Council wants to deliver what local people want

Budget – none set

Timescale: keen to order bulbs and plant over the year.

Constraints: safety, not encouraging bad behaviour

Goals – something for everyone, active park

Plan: cycle track through trees. Not as shown, trees will be thinned and track will run in and out of trees. Final line to be decided – not keen to go behind allotments

Plan: tree management plan, thinning and planting better trees

Plan: wild flower bed: not flowers but softer grasses that will permit wild flowers to grow

Plan: tottering path: whin dust surface following existing desire lines

Plan: five-a-side goals, now a 7-a-side pitch to be maintained by Lochend club – children 5-12.

Not in Plan:

- Board on History of Park
- outdoor gyms
- seats
- picnic tables
- path to Morrisons....