



## NEWSLETTER

Issue 15: January 2017

### HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!

November and December was really busy at Saughton Park with lots of great things happening and January promises to be the same with loads of exciting things coming! Read on to find out more.

### MOVING TOWARDS CONSTRUCTION

It's finally here, the year when we start the restoration work!

Our designers have been hard at work over the past few months completing the detailed design and tender drawings. They are almost at the end of this process, and in February we will be issuing 'Invitations to Tender' for contractors to price the job. The work will be carried out under two contracts, one for the Buildings and one for the Landscape. The successful contractors will be appointed by the start of June this year and work is due to commence shortly afterwards and will run for approximately 12 months. The exact timescales will be confirmed once the contractors have been appointed.



New cafe.

During the construction phase we will try to keep as much of the park open as we can. However, closures are unavoidable and it's likely that the Winter Garden, Conservatory and public toilets as well as both car parks will be closed for the majority of the 12 month period.

We aim to keep the Skatepark and the three football pitches to the north of the Skatepark open for business as usual although the two pitches to the west will be out of action for the 2017/18 winter season to allow us to do remediation work and re-seeding. More details will be published in due course.

### PARKS FOR PEOPLE

Find out more about the Heritage Lottery Fund '[Parks for People](http://www.hlf.org.uk)' programme on their website [www.hlf.org.uk](http://www.hlf.org.uk).



The new veranda leading to the refurbished Chapel which will provide a new community and volunteer venue and office space for staff and the Caley.

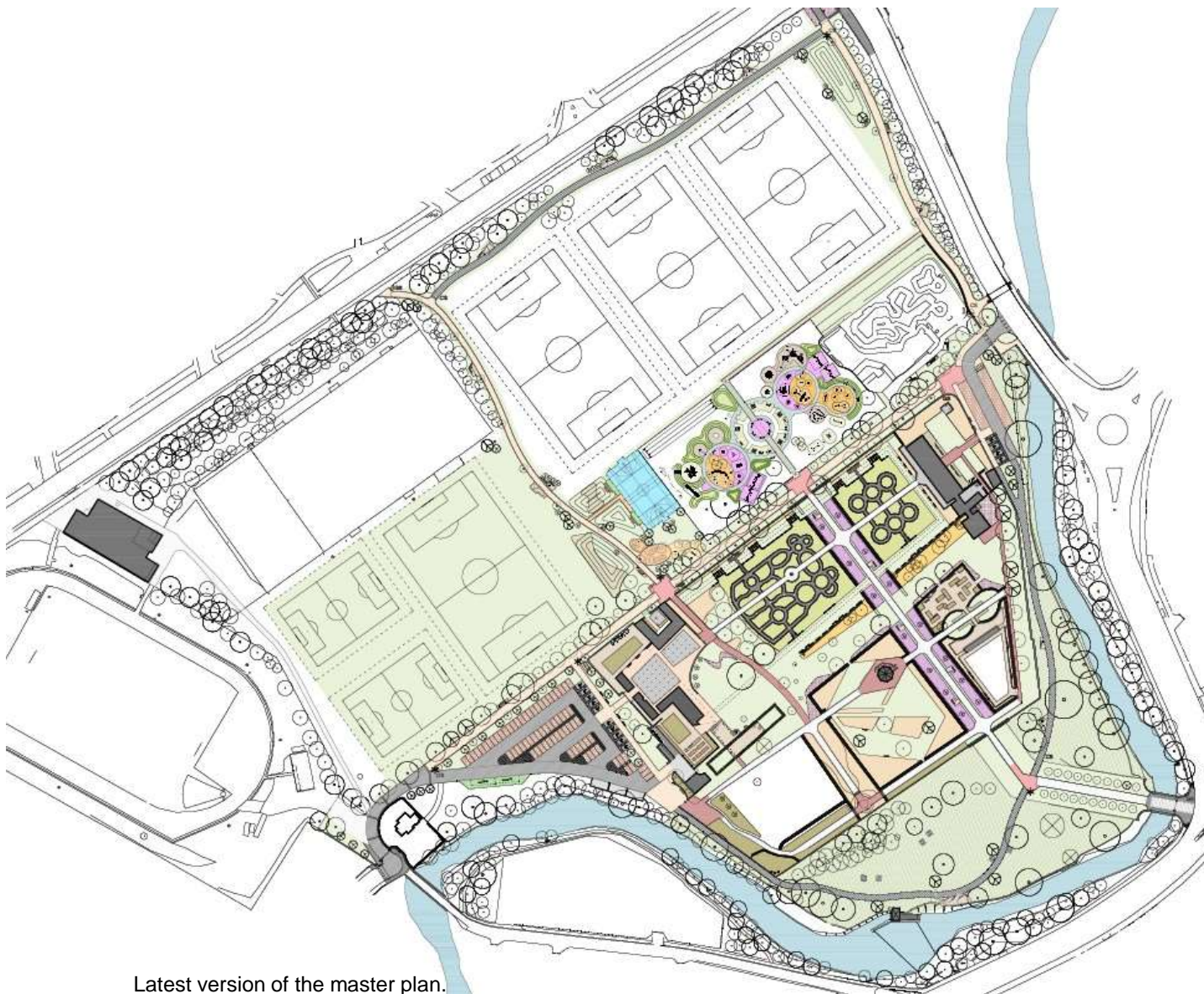


New corridor for the Chapel.

## MASTER PLAN DESIGN DETAILING

The detailed design phase has enabled us to put more thought into the finer details of the master plan and to develop ideas more fully. There has been very little significant change however.

The main change worth noting is that the Winter Garden Conservatory is being retained. This was due to be demolished and the Winter Garden extended. It was felt however that the Conservatory was very well used and worth retaining. Both the Conservatory and the Winter Garden will be completely refurbished and re-planted. The old cafe area will be removed (as a new cafe is being built to the west of the site) and space will be made by the Plant Room for a small kitchen area which can be used by groups for community events. The public toilets in this area will be refurbished, and will complement the public toilets being built near the new cafe.



Latest version of the master plan.

The other change is the location of the Water of Leith Viewpoint. It was decided to move this along to the Weir as the traffic noise was not as obtrusive and the view to the Water of Leith and the Weir was much better than the original proposed location.

The latest version of the master plan can be viewed on our web site [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/saughtonpark](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/saughtonpark) and in the Winter Garden from Monday 16 January. There will also be a presentation at the next Friends of Saughton Park meeting on Thursday 12 January at 7 p.m. in the Winter Garden, subject to weather – everyone welcome!

## LET'S GET MOVING

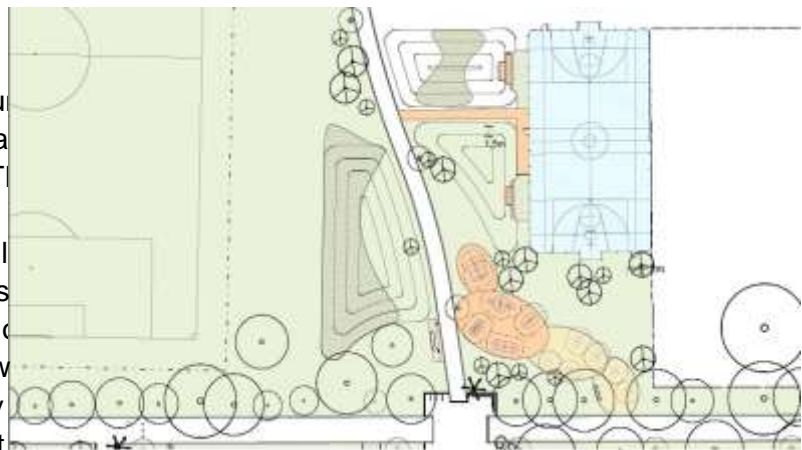
We have developed detailed designs for a network of off-road green Active Travel routes running through the park. This design work is being funded by a Sustrans Community Links grant, and the plans will be used to support another funding application to the Sustrans Community Links fund to carry out the works. There is already HLF funding secured to develop this network of paths; however additional Sustrans funding will allow us to widen the paths to allow pedestrian and cycle traffic and so help to increase the number of 'Quiet Routes' which run across Edinburgh. Seating areas will be incorporated around the whole path network, some with fitness trail equipment to complement the outdoor gym area. The designs will be available to view on our website [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/saughtonpark](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/saughtonpark) and in the Winter Garden from Monday 16 January.



New seating areas around the 'Active Travel Routes'.

## GETTING ACTIVE THE FUN WAY

The detailed design work to enlarge the playground it more inclusive so that children of all ages and a play and have fun together is almost at the end. To be used to support a number of grant application making this and next month. If successful, we will put in a path network so that those in wheelchairs around the whole playground and there will be more equipment that children in wheelchairs or those who more support can use and enjoy, and importantly much needed opportunities for them to play together children.



Outdoor Gym and Games Area.

Unfortunately the Edinburgh Inline Hockey Club has not had success with their recent bids to raise funding to build a new inclusive multi-use games area. We will continue to work with them to identify other funding.

The new outdoor gym will be located to the west of the playground, next to the games area. We have some funding secured through the HLF bid and we will be trying to raise additional funding to increase the amount of the outdoor gym equipment. If the additional funding can be raised, we will have a 'spin zone' with various bikes and a toning zone.



Timber seating for spectators at the games area.

## FRIENDS OF SAUGHTON PARK

The FoSP AGM held in November was very well attended and as usual this was a great mix of the fun and the formal. The existing committee was unanimously re-elected and one new committee member was welcomed to the team. The year ahead was planned and everyone was very excited about the restoration works starting in the summer.



Friends of Saughton Park in festive mood!

The FoSP Christmas Event was a great success with around 100 people coming along to the Winter Garden to join in with the festivities. There was a plant sale, wreath making, pop-up café with scrummy home baking and a raffle with some super prizes. In total the FoSP made £349.30 on the day. A happy FoSP chairperson Shona Nelson said *“Great work and thanks to everyone. It was great to finish off the FoSP year on a high!”*



Christmas wreath-making with the Friends of Saughton Park.

## CONTACT THE FRIENDS

The Friends of Saughton Park always welcomes new members.

They meet on the first Thursday of the month at 7:00pm in the Winter Garden

Visit their website

[www.friendsofsaughtonpark.org](http://www.friendsofsaughtonpark.org)

[friendsofsaughtonpark@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofsaughtonpark@gmail.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/FofSP/>

## FOSP JANUARY MEETING

The January meeting of the FoSP is on **12 January at 7 p.m.**, subject to weather, in the Winter Garden.

Come along and see the final version of the park master plan and hear about the FoSP schedule for the year ahead.

**\*\*\*STOP PRESS\*\*\***

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**[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/](https://www.facebook.com/edinoutdoors/)**

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**IF MEETING IS CANCELLED**

**DUE TO BAD WEATHER.**



Rudolf the Red Nosed Cactus, just one of the great Christmas themed things for sale at the event.

## FOOD SHARING EDINBURGH

Food Sharing Edinburgh is funded by the Scottish Climate Challenge Fund to reduce CO2 emissions. It started as part of the SHRUB swap and re-use hub on Guthrie Street. Meetings are on Mondays at the SHRUB. All welcome.

See their webpage

[www.foodsharingedinburgh.wordpress.com](http://www.foodsharingedinburgh.wordpress.com) for details.



## COMMUNITY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Sunday 4 December, following the Christmas Event, we continued the busy weekend with around 200 people attending our first 'Disco Soup' organised by Food Sharing Edinburgh who are funded by the Scottish Climate Challenge Fund to reduce CO2 emissions. They achieve this by gathering food which is perfectly good but which might otherwise be destined for landfill and then sharing it with everyone. Disco Soup brings people together to chop and grate veggies and make gorgeous homemade soup and whilst it's all bubbling away, dance to live music.



Stirring the soup with a garden fork and why not!

There was also loads of other stuff to do like press apples and make fresh apple juice, chat about the themes of food sustainability, up-cycling and consumerism responsibility. It was fantastic to see so many new faces in the park and Jess Acton of Food Sharing Edinburgh said of Saughton Park, *"the venue was perfect, it was such a beautiful space for Disco Soup and I'd be delighted to bring it back to Saughton again."*



Some great grooves with 'Junky Fam' at Disco Soup!



Dancing to soul funk hip-hop fusion exponents 'Jambouree'.

We hope to host Disco Soup at Saughton again in March, so watch this space.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Saturday 10 December saw the Welcoming who help refugees and migrants integrate into Edinburgh life, hold their annual Volunteer Reception in the Winter Garden. What a great night it was with around 70 people coming together to celebrate a hugely successful year for the Welcoming. There was fairy lights, music, great food, a pub quiz and awards were given to the valued volunteers.

## THANK YOU TO SAUGHTON PARK'S VOLUNTEERS

And now a word about our amazing and dedicated band of volunteers at Saughton Park.

Visitors to the park may not appreciate what goes on behind the scenes to make all of the wonderful events actually happen, nor might they realise that there is a team of people giving their time to carry out a myriad of tasks in the park such as picking up litter, tending the gardens, researching the history of the area, baking cakes and working with the Council to ensure that the restoration plans meet with the aspirations of local people. This is just a flavour of the range of volunteering at Saughton.



FoSP selfie!

Between them our volunteers have carried out 919 hours of work, which equates to a financial value of £137,850 based on official HLF volunteer rates. But, not only that, the difference that our volunteers have made to the park and the restoration project is significant, so, to each and every one of you, Linda and Pete give their heartfelt thanks.



Cakes, cakes, wonderful cakes!

## WELCOMING ASSOCIATION

The Welcoming is a registered charity (SC041952) and a company limited by guarantee (SC398913) which support migrants and refugees in Edinburgh. See their website [www.thewelcoming.org](http://www.thewelcoming.org) for details.



## SAUGHTON VOLUNTEERS

If you are interested in joining us as a volunteer at Saughton please get in touch with:

Pete McDougall,  
Project Development Officer  
0131 529 4876  
[peter.mcdougall@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:peter.mcdougall@edinburgh.gov.uk)

Or just come along to the next Friends meeting.



Working in the Community Garden.

## SAUGHTON IN NUMBERS



Rona, one of those who helped carve the new Saughton Park stone.



From tiny seeds grew these lovely wildflowers.

## CONTACT US

Find out more at  
[www.edinburgh.gov.uk/saughtonpark](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/saughtonpark)

Email us at  
[parks@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:parks@edinburgh.gov.uk) or call  
0131 608 1100

## A LOOK BACK AT A GREAT 2016 IN NUMBERS

- ◆ £3,799,100 HLF grant funding awarded in January
- ◆ £22,585 Sustrans grant awarded in August
- ◆ 3400 metres of existing and new paths planned
- ◆ 5000 new roses needed
- ◆ 30 cherry tree trunks converted to useful planks by Garvald
- ◆ 17 new and refurbished toilets in the plan
- ◆ 1 original Saughton bandstand found, surveyed and assessed for reinstatement
- ◆ 100 events hosted in the park
- ◆ 6337 people attended events in the park in 2016
- ◆ 50 people carved 12 letters in sandstone with sculptor Gardner Molloy
- ◆ 919 is the number of hours that our wonderful volunteers hours given to the park and £137,850 is that financial value to the project
- ◆ 50 oral history stories recorded
- ◆ 100 people went on a ghost walk
- ◆ 500 hunted bears
- ◆ 26 poems and creative stories written by six Diageo staff on a 7 month Creative Writing Challenge
- ◆ Umpteen hours spent pouring over plans
- ◆ 2 project team members working hard with 11 steering group members keeping them in check and 6 board members overseeing the project
- ◆ 1 project dog called Missy was joined by another called Badger for a meeting
- ◆ 7 foxes seen, 5 otters recorded and 4 kingfishers fishing
- ◆ 1800 grammes of wildflower seeds sown
- ◆ 25 Christmas Wreaths made
- ◆ 743 Cakes consumed
- ◆ And finally 37 packets of plain chocolate digestive biscuits munched!

What a year!!



That's all for this newsletter.

We hope that 2017 is going to be a great year for you and we'd love to see you in the park over the next few weeks.

All the best  
Linda and Pete