



# FRAW News

November 2018

## Salvesen Steps Replacement Some Encouraging News

There is now an agreed coherent plan and schedule in place to take the project forward to the next phase and what we hope will be construction of a much needed resource for locals and visitors alike.

Our members and many other local residents will be familiar with the long campaign to replace the Steps with a disability compliant route around the rock face – FRAW has been involved for six years. The process until now has been subject to many disappointing delays but several preparatory surveys have now led to an outline design of the structure. Discussions about such matters as the design flood-level height have been resolved. Simply put, a steel structure will be supported by cantilevered brackets drilled into the rock face. Once the brackets are in place, pre-manufactured sections can be installed.

Very importantly, Sustrans the sustainable travel organisation have confirmed their financial commitment to the project and are actively participating in its progress. The next stages are to map the rock face and to check the rock geometry and strength, which will allow accurate location of the brackets and design of the rock anchors.

Firstly, vegetation has to be cleared from the rock face which will require abseil specialists. Secondly, a pulsed laser survey of the rock face will provide a three dimensional image. Thirdly, vertical cores will be drilled through the rock and angled test anchors will be drilled, installed and tested to provide data on rock orientation and strength. It is hoped to have all three stages completed before bird nesting season next year.

Following completion of the above, detailed design drawings, specifications and costings will be prepared and submitted for approval.

There is an encouraging commitment to complete the project. It is important to realise that if the Walkway by the Almond is to remain a continuous route from Cramond to the 'Brig' the planned scheme is the only option being considered. The current scaffolding steps are a temporary structure and have a limited life and have ongoing weekly hire and inspection costs. We will continue to help in the ongoing process and keep in touch with our members. We will also advise on any closures to the Steps that may be required during the above three stages.



*The Old Steps*

*One of the reasons why they need to be replaced!*