



FRAW News- March 2020

In this our first FRAW News of 2020 all the news is not altogether encouraging - so we will start on a positive note.

WORK PARTIES

Much of the 'heavy lifting' has been achieved during the last seven years of activity due to the commitment of our gallant volunteers and the financial support afforded by all our valued members. Therefore much of our work now is in revisiting sites tackled in the past as plants insist on re-growing! One such was a repeat clearance of the entrance to the Walkway at Queensferry Road which is now much clearer again after the removal of obstructive growth and invasive species – not to mention lots of litter. Several smaller jobs have also been tackled such as clearing the Salvesen Steps of leaf debris a re-occurring task. At the other entrance to the Walkway at Cramond hedging comprising Cherry Plum, wild Privet and Dogwood has been planted to line the boatyard fence and to when grown improve the view. Work is also scheduled to continue to cut-back growth in the area to improve the light there and to remove or burn the piles of brash that have gathered.

COMING ACTIVITIES

Mention has been made to us of the ugly piles of logs that often remain after tree felling. Starting the beginning of March, we have commissioned a wood carver to convert the large pile between Fair-a-Far weir and the Salvesen Steps. The idea is to transform the large trunk section that looks rather like a whale into (you've guessed it) a whale and also turn other debris into seating and places for children to climb etc. We will distribute pictures when this is completed.



Last year's path upgrade at Peggy's Mill appears to be a success as it has remained dry and un-muddy in the recent heavy rains. Drainage of the adjoining area where the seat is has been less of a triumph. The drain was wrongly located there. However, we have a plan to combat this to create a

lighter and welcoming place to rest and enjoy at this part of the Walkway. The picture here gives a simulation of what we hope to achieve. Our excellent local CEC Natural Heritage Officer has most helpfully agreed to apply for funding in the next financial year to take this forward together with whatever support is needed from us.

SALVESEN STEPS REPLACEMENT

Following a previous meeting in which design details were presented for the proposed bypass around the rock-face we finally attended a meeting with CEC officials and Sustrans (sustainable travel organisation and funder) to hear estimated costings. The project has literally grown legs with ramps either end to raise the level of the proposed section of path to take account of projections of a 200 year flood event. Consequently the estimated cost has risen far beyond what was originally projected and of the funding in place. Sustrans remain very keen on the project and we are currently waiting to hear what extra funding may be available to take this important project to completion. This has somewhat dented our optimism after seven years of tortured meetings, surveys, disappointments, papers, highs, lows and associated delays but we will continue on the case.

DOWIES MILL WEIR

Our last FRAW News reported that at the meeting held between the Council and local organisations on 2 October CEC agreed that our alternative option would now be given consideration and that funding would be sought to carry this out.

As far as we are aware little if any progress has taken place. We of course hope that we are wrong but the worry remains that the council will continue to press for its option to be put to the council and that following a very long experience a large majority local concern will be ignored or bypassed. We and our partner local organisations have continued to point out the dangers of the proposed plan to destroy Dowie's Mill Weir and the advantages of the alternative retention of the weir with the addition of fish easement and the consequential saving of money. Our fear is that a proposal will be slipped through the appropriate council committee whilst giving the minimum possible notice period making it difficult for a reaction to be organised.

WE REALLY WANT YOU TO STAY.....

It is renewal time for our members and you should all have received an email from us. We hope you will renew and help us to continue our work. Your support is vital to the work we do, never more so than now when we are trying to represent the views of the community in our discussions on Dowie's Mill Weir and the Salvesen Steps. If you haven't received the email, please contact us.

Also, if you are able to, please consider Gift Aiding your subscription and any donations you are generous enough to make. We have just submitted our latest Gift Aid application to HMRC and are looking forward to receiving a payment of £423.25.

This means that, in the last three years, our funds have been boosted by over £1200. Thank you everyone for your support.



A DATE FOR YOU DIARY - FRAW AGM.



Doesn't time fly by? It is time again for the FRAW AGM and our committee (picture) are looking out for as many as possible of our members to attend. There is much to discuss and a good turnout is essential if we are to continue to operate in an authorised manner. A glass of wine etc. is promised afterwards.

Wednesday 29 April 7.30 Cramond Kirk Hall

AND FINALLY.

In case you understandably did not take a walk by (or even in) the river during the recent episodes of exceptionally heavy rain – here are some pictures for you. Yes, one is of the logs we plan to get carved!

