Homeyards Botanical Gardens

Walk Around Meeting 21/01/26 10am-12.30pm

Attendees:

Danielle Westlake – SPC

Mark Payne- TDC officer , Head of Greenspaces

Dave Morris – assigned gardener

Alison Melville- Shreeve -Chair FoHBG

Lisa Pash - FoHBG

Adrian -

Castle update – Damp worse than ever. Emma favas at TDC has arranged a roofer to come and check it out just awaiting for Darren her boss to sign it off before proceeding. FoHBG volunteers have a rota to empty the dehumidifier every 2 days over the winter. Damp areas will require redecoration before bookings happen. Booked for 3 wedding blessing events in May, August & Sept.

New log burner inspection due March 30th then should be able to use it from then on.

*I raised H & S concerns about mould spores in the air due to damp patches up the walls. MP advised putting this in an email so that roof inspection and redecoration would be prioritised.

Castle teas and Coffees by volunteers Mon- Fri mornings expected to start End of March

Retaining Wall Collapse Torquay Road- Order been made for that to be fixed this financial year by Richard Rainbow. Will require traffic management on Torquay road. Are hoping traffic management will include area by gardeners hut so that can be fixed at the same time – no guarantee!

I said we should expect a barrage of complaints if traffic management also still in place where Torquay road/ Ringmore road junction is still in operation – likely to be!

Witches Cave – looks sturdier than TDC engineer previously stated. FoHBG getting a structural engineers report for renovation with works costings and hopefully if TDC engineer in agreement with scope… then funds necessary can be organised through a campaign and grant schemes.

TDC Greenspaces team to work on rerouting one of the flagstone paths to keep it level away from tree routes. % welcome Notice boards on order by Greenspaces due end of Feb.

Gardens likely to have some ongoing tree works FoHBG to Liaise with Greenspaces

The Id Verde Contract for this 5-year period up until 2029 saw a reduction in staff across TDC from 16- 9 FT equivalents. Been challenging. All greenspaces across district working on a 32-day mowing/ maintenance regime. SPC contribution of £6000 towards a gardener (currently Dave Morris) is very welcome thank you. Unable to guarantee 2 full days on average - likely to be between 1.5 and 1.8 but is flexible depending on staffing availability. TDC unlikely to require any increase in funds for the role until next contract period (starting in 2029)

Pond Maintenance is currently good and working well – special attention by volunteer.

Other info gleaned at meeting:

TDC Tree Officer name : Edward Hornsby

Pond at the Ness – Pump/special hoover required for pond cleaning cost is £900 approx. TDC greenspaces could likely find half this cost - but could the local community find the rest somehow? SPC Grant and SWC Grant combined maybe? Would be able to store it in the Homeyards Container when not in use – worth collaborating on this … Do Councillors want me to talk to Ray Edworthy about this as an idea?