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FoMR Winter Newsletter 2020

Dear FoMR friend,

The information in this quarter's newsletter will keep you up-to-date with issues that affect the Milngavie Reservoirs as we move into the colder months.

Parking - Enough to drive you mad

Parking has become a serious issue within the reservoir and we have to remind everyone that only authorised vehicles, like those of Scottish Water or contractors and holders of disabled badges, are allowed into the reservoir area.

As the reservoir becomes more popular with walkers, joggers and cyclists there are serious concerns about safety with the increasing numbers of cars entering through the narrow Mugdock Road entrance ramp. The problem has become worse while contractors are working on Commissioner's Cottage and other maintenance projects.

"No Parking" signs erected by Scottish Water are largely being ignored and we would urge drivers to comply for everyone's safety and enjoyment of the area.

The narrow Mugdock Road entrance is an accident waiting to happen...

Paths - Splashing out

Heavy use during Covid restrictions, social distancing and now rain have conspired to create some uber-muddy paths. SW plan remedial works including reinstatement of eroded grass. They have been promising this for years and now say it will start in the new year. In the meantime don't forget the wellies. In extremis SW are giving away free snorkels for the shocking path parallel to Mugdock Road.

Ironworks - Rust need sleeps

Painting of previously painted ironworks is still of concern. Scottish Water has had to go back to contractors to rectify areas where rust is coming through. We have urged that railings etc be stripped back to the bare metal but it seems this has been largely ignored and some yellow paint applied to rusty surfaces. Part of the problem arises from the fact that Scottish Water does not seem to check how our money is being spent...and in many cases wasted.

Volunteering - Let's all have a go

After years of humming and hawing Scottish Water are now coming round to the necessity of allowing volunteers to help maintain the reservoirs the way the Victorians envisaged. So, with this in mind we are planning a litter pick on Saturday 5th December at 10am. This can be viewed as the launching pad for a much-needed good news story in these straitened times that volunteering will be near the top of Scottish Water's agenda. For FoMR we see it as an opportunity to recruit more members and to show that we are working in partnership with Scottish Water. We intend that the litter pick be followed by bulb and tree planting which will give the rather rundown reservoirs a makeover. Watch this space...

Whaley: a bridge too far

At our recent committee meetings we have discussed the potential disaster that was Whaley Bridge - where a lack of maintenance nearly brought to mind the Dambusters movie. We believe the same could happen at Milngavie.

The evidence is right in front of us with the revetments. It is clear that tree roots are growing under them and can cause displacement and potential disaster. Nobody really knows what is going under there. As we know the revetments were continuously weeded and kept tree-root free in the past. Pointing was also done on a continuous basis due to the maintenance regime of the past.

Scottish Water will argue that they have had specialists inspect these on a regular basis. Let us see these reports to reassure the local population. They will also argue that they have recently cleared the revetments and have plans to continue doing so. Again, let's see the plans.

This work is being undertaken as part of Scottish Water's 'Refresh Strategy' but has been poorly publicised. Maybe they do not want to do it as people would complain that it was a waste of public money. Let us not forget Milngavie Reservoir is an A-listed asset and as owners they do have responsibilities for maintaining it as well.

FoMR position papers - First with the news

We have been busy preparing papers on heritage aspects of the reservoir to prevent further decay to buildings and deterioration of the horticultural aspects. See them on our website www.fomr.uk. Any comments let us know or send us your pics.

Wishing all good health!

Best wishes,
FoMR Committee

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