

FoMR Report for AGM on Thursday 18th February 2021

Introduction

At last year's AGM in January who could have predicted what a year 2020 would turn out to be as a result of Covid 19.

Inevitably this had an impact on the planned work Scottish Water outlined in their published Refresh Strategy as everything came to a near standstill in March 2020.

The last year's progress

The Milngavie Reservoir Liaison Group (MRLG) met continuously during 2020 via virtual technologies. A number of FoMR and Scottish Water meetings were held in the same manner and progress was made in the following areas:-

- Our Information Board was installed.
- All remaining old Bins have now been replaced as promised by Scottish Water.
- Although the clearing of Vegetation on the Revetments on the Southern bank of Mugdock Reservoir was deemed completed, it was not long that there was a considerable amount of growth and while accepting that the Covid-19 lockdown has affected routine maintenance, this issue has been raised at the previous two MRLG online meetings and there's been no indication since of what measures are being taken to control the growth. FoMR were assured that the clearance work would be the first part of a major programme to clear all the revetments. December did see work started in clearing Vegetation on the Revetments at the eastern bank of Craigmaddie Reservoir. FoMR cannot see the point of spending money on such work without backing it up with an ongoing programme of maintenance to keep all growth under control. We believe that in the past, such growth was restricted because the stonework was grouted to stop soil gathering in the joints.
- Work on Commissioners Cottage was completed to make it watertight and to upgrade the windows and sills. It is hoped that the next phase will deal with the interiors. FoMR's ambition is to turn it into an Information/Exhibition Centre.

- The faulty painting work around Craigmaddie measuring ponds had started and deemed complete. FoMR will re-visit these in the Spring to ensure that the rust has not re-appeared.
- Barrachan – it appears that a resolution between Scottish Water and the landowners has been reached in providing an access route. Following a virtual meeting with Scottish Water Directors and FoMR it was agreed that the preferred option for all would be for it to be developed sympathetically to provide residential accommodation. FoMR did not want to see a gated community or large single residence.
- Paths – it was expected that the paths around the Reservoirs would have been refurbished. Following a consultation Scottish Water have refined their plans and have carried out extensive drainage surveys around the site. This has resulted in this work being tackled in Spring 2021.
- Interpretive signs – a project has started by removing a lot of the redundant signs. Its next phase will be to agree on new signs which will help to inform visitors to the site.
- Parking – this remains a huge issue as the number of cars illegally parking at the Old Treatment plant has increased dramatically. FoMR strongly believe that a barrier should be installed which would still allow the residents access and give sufficient disabled parking spaces. Scottish Water are dragging their heels on this one.

Burncrooks pipeline

The ongoing saga of Burncrooks seems to be never ending. The project has exacerbated flooding of existing paths and surrounding areas, resulted in areas of compacted soil within Milngavie Reservoir and added to the current parking issues with the closure/part closure of the Drumclog car park/Mugdock road for extended periods.

Green Flag accreditation

Not much progress has been made due to Covid. However, it still remains a goal. FoMR believes that the Refresh Strategy when complete will go a long way toward achieving this accreditation.

Looking Ahead to 2021

The plans will hopefully (Covid permitting) include the following actions:

- Further work to clear revetments around Mugdock and Craigmaddie Reservoirs.
- Some Ironworks superstructures are being totally refurbished.
- Work on paths will commence in earnest.
- Old Chlorination plant site will get a facelift.
- Commissioners Cottage internals will start.
- Trees which have been damaged will be replaced.
- FoMR/SW volunteering programme will be established and up and running.

FoMR have produced a number of Position Papers which can be seen on our website. FoMR are looking for expertise in Civil Engineering or similar technical skills in taking forward these improvements. Do contact us if you are happy to be co-opted on a project by project basis or even just to give us advice.

I hope that the next year sees a big leap forward and that we all see the Reservoir beginning to look Beautiful again.

I would like to thank all our members for their support, Scottish Water for listening and our Committee for their hard work.

Eddy

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Chair of FoMR

Prepared: Jan 2021