

FoMR Report for AGM on Thursday 17th March 2022

Introduction

We were all in lockdown in the early months of 2021. This was a very unusual time for everyone especially that it was FoMR's 20th year since its formation. What was 2021 going to be like?

The Reservoirs came into their own again when they were being used for exercise by the local Community. The number of visitors were certainly very high.

Again, for the second year running COVID restrictions impacted on the planned work Scottish Water were hoping to deliver.

However, FoMR and Scottish Water have been working together to progress plans taking into account COVID restrictions and unplanned delays.

The last year's progress

If I look back at last year's AGM report, I can see that a number of expected actions planned to be taking place during 2021 haven't materialised. A lot of this can be put down to the Covid lockdown eating into the early months of 2021 and the uncertainty of Omicron at the latter part of the year.

FoMR had expected the paths to have started during 2021 but inevitably this has been delayed. The good news is that the designs are now being finalised and as Listed Building Consent is required these plans will be submitted to EDC for their consideration. This is expected to take 2 to 3 months. FoMR have pressed Scottish Water that paths upgrade works cannot be delayed or there is a risk of this work not starting until 2023. We are asking for a huge effort from both Scottish Water and EDC that this is of extremely High Customer interest flagged up through Scottish Water's user consultation exercise and must be fast tracked.

FoMR have held a number of events during the course of 2021:

- Mental Health Awareness Week was promoted by FoMR and supported by Scottish Water and the Mental Health Foundation.

- Volunteering came to the forefront with Scottish Water reviewing their Health and Safety guidelines to enable tasks to be undertaken by FoMR volunteers. FoMR volunteers were involved in litter picks, tidy ups around the main area and bulb planting. These events were supported by Scottish Water representatives, Volunteering Scotland and Keep Scotland beautiful.
- The Chair of Institute of Civil Engineers unveiled a replacement plaque commemorating John Bateman. This event was attended by Scottish Water and a number of EDC councillors in acknowledgement of Bateman's achievement in combining engineering and environmental elements to create such a unique place.
- FoMR and Scottish Water have been working on a collaboration plan to document improvements to the Reservoirs. This will develop into a Technical Document called a Management Plan which outlines an agreed vision for the whole asset. Out of this document will come a Maintenance Plan clearly outlining what needs done when and why. This is key to the future of the Reservoirs to ensure it is kept in a good state of repair for future generations to enjoy.
- We have had a couple of very successful meetings with Scottish Water Directors to agree a shared vision of the future. This commitment comes from the top of Scottish Water and is very welcome.
- The interpretive signs project is ongoing.
- We have all seen the Gates around the site being removed. These are undergoing refurbishment. The pillars holding these gates are being worked on with extensive pointing taking place. This will make a big visual difference when complete.
- Our Website and Facebook pages have had a growing number of visitors.

Burncrooks pipeline

Last year in my report I said that the Burncrooks project seemed never to end. It had caused flooding and unfortunately this problem is still ongoing. Flooding affects the lower path North of Craigmaddie Reservoir (close to North Lodge property). In addition, the large grassed area in front of North Lodges has not recovered and urgent attention is needed to remedy this.

Again, FoMR do continue to highlight remedial works required to ensure that anything which affects the quality of the Reservoirs is addressed by the contractors.

Looking Ahead to 2022

I repeat my message from last year's report that 'I hope that the next year sees a big leap forward and that we all see the Reservoir beginning to look Beautiful again'.

Our priorities remain the same with the Paths being the number 1 item which we hope will start this summer.

Other items we hope to progress working with Scottish Water are:

- The Management Plan to define a long term agreed Maintenance Regime.
- Parking – Scottish Water are planning to install vehicle counters at the entrance on Mugdock Road to ascertain the extent of the problem.
- Ranger – Please refer to our paper on our website defining the benefits
- Fencing – this eyesore is to be looked at especially around the straining wells to seek sympathetic alternatives.
- The old Chlorination Plant (across from Commissioner's Cottage) is being landscaped. The design has been approved and appropriate contractors are being sought.
- The Flower bed in the well area in front of Craigmaddie is to be enhanced.
- Commissioner's Cottage windows need to be addressed.
- A revetments clearing programme has been put in place and will be actioned.
- Barrachan is to be sold to a sympathetic developer. The Scottish Government have shown an interest.
- More Volunteering opportunities to progress with regular litter picks and planting opportunities.
- FoMR would like to address the Benches situation as per our paper which can be found on our website that will include replacement benches of similar designs.

Conclusion

This last year has been quite active even though we were restricted by Covid regulations.

FoMR have had a resignation during the course of the year namely Robin Brown. I, on behalf of the Committee would like to thank Robin for his hard work and contribution during 2021.

It is not only FoMR that undergoes change but so do Scottish Water. The team which has been interacting with us is moving on to other roles within the organisation, namely Judy Wakker and Gill Hay. Gill has been our single point of contact and has worked to address the many issues we have put her way. We would like to thank Gill.

Judy really has been the driving force behind most of the proposed changes which will be happening over the next 18 months. I am sure she will still be keeping an eye on progress from her new role with Scottish Water. We would like to thank Judy for her input and for really pushing forward Scottish Water's Refresh Strategy.

We wish Gill and Judy well in their new roles.

It is also an opportunity to welcome Mandy Mair who will now have an overseeing role on the implementation of this new programme of works. FoMR look forward to working with her in making a difference.

Finally, 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: February 2022