FoMR Report for AGM on Thursday 30th March 2023

Introduction

As our Winter newsletter updated you with our progress up to December, I will do my very best to keep my Chairman’s report brief and relevant.

With Covid now well behind us FoMR and Scottish Water got down to the business of discussing, planning and delivering on our joint aspirations for the Reservoirs development.

We will look back at 2022 as the year where these plans over the last few years came into fruition and were beginning to be rolled out.

Last Year’s progress

In my 2022 report our main concern that the paths wouldn’t start until 2023. In fact, that is exactly what is happening.

The reason behind the delay was that the chosen surface for the paths is being replaced by a better quality and more environmentally friendly material. This work is scheduled to start Spring/Summer 2023. FoMR are fully supportive of this decision and, in fact, are happier that the work will start when the weather conditions will be more favourable than an October/November start.

In December 2022, Mark MacLaren was appointed to exclusively oversee Milngavie Reservoirs. Mark has been a long-term Scottish Water employee and is now the FoMR main point of contact. We are delighted with Mark’s appointment and in the few months he has been in this post we can see the huge benefits of this relationship as has been evidenced by his proactive and positive approach.

Other activities during the year:

* Work on the Old Chlorination Plant (across from Commissioner’s Cottage) will be nearly complete. We should all see area begin to come to life in the Spring of this year.
* Scottish Water have appointed consultants to look at the fencing around the straining wells.
* The Rangers have officially started and hopefully they will lead in taking forward some community activities during the coming months.
* Top up Tap and defibrillator now installed.
* By the time you read this we hope that the Craigmaddie draw off tower Bridge has been replaced or soon will be.
* FoMR has started a survey on the ownership of the various benches around the site. If you own or know someone who owns a bench, please email us at admin@fomr.uk. Thank you for everyone who have already contacted us.
* The Milngavie Reservoir Liaison Group is still very active. This allows Scottish Water and FoMR the opportunity to discuss plans and improvements.

Looking Ahead to the coming year

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.

Our number 2 priority is the development of the Management Plan. Over this year FoMR will be working closely with Scottish Water to put a management and maintenance plan we expect will have longevity. This plan will produce a programme of work/maintenance over the years. This will allow for clear objectives and create better awareness and budgeting. This will allow everyone to know when things are needing done, when they will be done and how much to budget.

FoMR are delighted that Scottish Water have appointed Land Use Consultants (LUC) to head up this work of producing this Management Plan. Two of our committee members will be meeting with LUC and Scottish Water to progress this.

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

* Parking – FoMR and Scottish Water will continue to investigate solutions to stopping the unauthorised parking at the Central hub.
* The Flower bed in the well area in front of Craigmaddie is to be enhanced alongside other improvements in this area.
* Commissioner’s Cottage – Ongoing maintenance will be carried out.
* A revetments clearing programme has been put in place and will be actioned.
* Barrachan is to be sold to a sympathetic developer. This is the hands of East Dunbartonshire Council who are looking at housing development options.
* Volunteering opportunities to progress with regular litter picks and planting opportunities. We also hope that Ranger led initiatives will occur.
* We plan to upgrade our website and increase our social media activities.

Conclusion

FoMR have had a resignation during the course of the year namely Arvind Salwan. I, on behalf of the Committee would like to thank Arvind for his hard work and contributions during his time with FoMR.

As we enter a crucial stage in the delivery, I am delighted to say that we have had two new members join our committee, one onto the full committee and the other in an advisory role.

Sue Laverge has agreed to join the committee to help us with all things planning. FoMR would like to explore a number of areas for improvement in particular the central hub area and examine what needs to be done to allow for the removal of fencing around the Reservoirs. I know that Sue will help the committee and we look forward to her contributions.

John McNaught, a civil engineer, joined our committee a few months back in an advisory capacity. John’s input will be invaluable as the work on the paths begin soon.

I would like to thank Chris Edwards who looks after our website, mailing list and much more.

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

As always, any thoughts or suggestions, please email us admin@fomr.uk

Eddy Yacoubian

Chair of FoMR

March 2023