

## **Friends of Glen Goyle – notes from zoom meeting - 3 March 2023**

Present: David Bassett, Lawrie Brownlee, Ed Dolphin, Paul Fealey, Katie Frost, Phil Lee, Roger Till, Mary Walden-Till, Jeremy Woodward

The meeting welcomed the participation in particular of David Bassett, taking part from Canada.

### **THE LAWN:**

Current state: There is a lot of shade, so we need to plant/mow accordingly; although much of the sides have been considerably cut back. However, in summer there is a lot of sun.

Suggestions:

- It could be divided up into areas – including a Victorian-style 'knot garden'; the shadier outer rim could be mown.
- Different grasses could be sown/planted in different areas; they would have to be managed re re-seeding.
- We have a 9-week period for meadow flowers – after which this would look scrappy.
- Exmouth's renaturing project used a hired contractor to turn the turf over – and to encourage wild flowers.
- Any mowing regime would need to take into account height/40mm, width/1m.
- Mowing paths through would provide a statement that it is being looked after.
- We need spaces to play and picnic, with mown areas around the outside and in the middle.

Actions:

- Mary to work on a map of the lawn
- Paul to liaise with FOGG and SteetScene mowing team
- Paul to arrange new signs re mowing areas; also possibly re children's play area and picking up after dogs.

### **NATURAL/HUMAN:**

Current state: It was pointed out that this is not a 'nature reserve'; that there should be a 'balance' between the natural and the human, the informal and formal.

Suggestions:

- The opposite/Western bank should be largely left to wildlife; and yet there might be some ivy which will need cutting back.
- The top of the slope can be accessed via Glen Rd.
- Smaller trees can be cut back a little to allow for healthier growth.

Actions:

- FOGG members to discuss further what will need to be cut back and planted
- (See below under Management Plan)

## **PLANTING:**

### Suggestions:

- The general approach is more under-storey cover and Victorian woodland planting; this would reduce maintenance and add stability/reduce erosion; the evergreen under-storey should be balanced to allow for spring plants.
- Fuchsias could be added, although there is the potential problem of fuchsia gall; there are different heights and unusual types.
- Other suggestions: more ericaceous plants; catoniasta/pyrocanthus.
- Any 'final layout' will take two years to realise, though

### Actions:

- Paul to forward a list of possible plants
- FOGG members to contribute further suggestions
- (See below under Management Plan)

## **FERNERY:**

### Suggestions:

- Ed has collected most of the 15 “Ferns of Sidmouth” recorded by Peter Orlando Hutchinson; FOGG have set aside an area to display the full collection.
- The area could include a 'stumpery'.

### Actions:

- FOGG members to meet up with Ed to consider the fernery on-site
- FOGG members and Ed to take the planning forward
- FOGG members, Ed and Paul to consider a rocky area to replicate cliffs for the ferns
- The interpretation boards would include reference to the collection; or there would be a specific board devoted to POH

## **ACCESS:**

Current state: There is the issue of accessing the site from the side entrance, through the vehicular double gate, giving access to the lawn and Glen. The current slope from the pedestrian entrance on Glen Rd is too steep for the less able-bodied/wheelchairs/prams.

### Suggestions:

- Mary has maps from 120 years ago 1892/1914, which indicate that there is already a path in existence.
- David can remember a 'rooty path' which could be cleared.
- The tree trunks blocking/covering the path from the entrance to the bridge would be removed or moved to the side.

### Action:

- Ed to provide initial planning to improve access, which can be presented to EDDC officers, to allow for a capital investment bid with a deadline of November

## MANAGEMENT PLAN:

### Suggestions:

- The above suggestions and actions would support an application for the Green Flag designation for Glen Goyle, which is the highest accolade for green space.
- Should FOGG/EDDC attain Green Flag status, then Heritage Lottery funding could be applied for.

### Actions:

- Jeremy and FOGG members to provide the history of the Glen for the Plan
- Paul and FOGG members to start considering planning for 2023 and 2024; the planting regime for April-June; a time-line for actions
- Paul and FOGG members to start preparing beds, plus ericaceous compost
- Paul and FOGG members to continue removing three cornered leek (schedule 9 on DEFRA list), although it is easier when in flower as it is more easily identifiable
- Paul and FOGG members to agree on a general plan for planting, through further exchanges and liaising – to include plants in which particular areas
- Needs to be general plan – what at entrance - agree on what – then can plant up

Finally: David hopes to be coming to Sidmouth next week (as of Monday 6th) and would like to meet up with FOGG members; he will be in touch to arrange a possible time.

Notes compiled 6 March 2023

Jeremy Woodward, secretary, Vision Group for Sidmouth

