

The Recycling Hub Proposal (A One Stop Drop)

As part of an overall strategy for working towards a zero waste policy for residents of the park I would like to request land on which to site a Recycling Hub. This would be designed to hold containers for the collection of a wide range of materials which are not collected by Moray Council Waste Services.

Vision

The Recycling Hub for the Community will be a simple roofed structure sympathetic to it's surroundings. There will be a fence on 3 sides for protection from the wind and to let in light. Built into this space will be a bench and a lockable store (to hold wheels and stock). Different sized bins can then be placed into the space both on top of and under the bench. The following photographs illustrate some of the features of the planned structure.

Simple design letting in light





Good signage and easy public access



The bench offers flexibility



Bins will be different sizes fit for purpose



Location

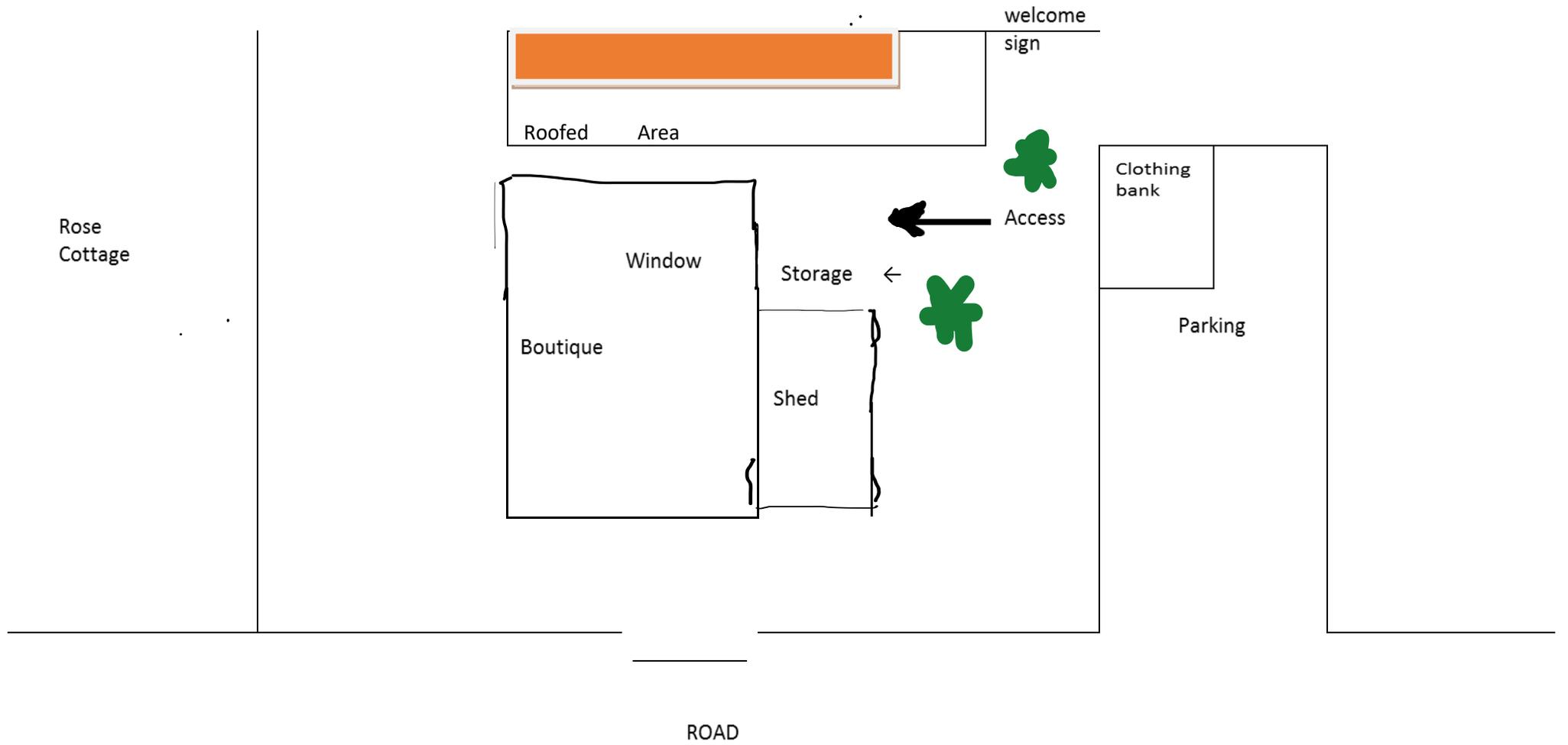
In an ideal world the recycling hub would be located near the proposed Welcome centre where it would be on view to all visitors and provide a demonstration of sustainable co-operative living in community and the commitment Findhorn community has for a zero waste policy.

However, it has been suggested that land currently used by Parks and Gardens behind the Boutique may also be a good place. The advantages of this area are that there is parking available for vehicles removing materials and it is close to the Boutique, therefore siting items for reuse and recycling close to each other.

The sketch plan below indicates how this space could be used. The trees are preserved but would require the removal of lower branches to let people pass.

recycling centre

Play Area



Background

For many years recycling was organised and held by the NFA who paid Beatrix D to hold and manage the day-to-day awareness. Large recycling bins and a clothing bank were located next to the Shop and offered a basic range of recycling options (cans, glass, paper/cardboard and clothing) and were regularly attended and maintained. In addition, bins for the collection of smaller items (e.g batteries and printer cartridges) were setup in the general office.

A number of years ago Moray Council introduced a variety of recycling bins to each household in the Park, covering cans & plastic, glass, paper/cardboard, which were in addition to their existing general waste (landfill) and composting material bins.

Moray Wastebusters at Waterford also established itself in this time, offering a one-stop recycling centre for a wide range of items.

Since these 'external' changes occurred the NFA has withdrawn its responsibility and funding to Beatrix, who now holds a 'relaxed' awareness on a voluntary basis.

This has left the community with patchy provision, largely dependant on individuals transporting materials to local recycling points, primarily The moray Council Recycling Depot at Waterford. Consequently, much is deposited in bins meant for landfill or at the Boutique.

Aim

To provide a local, centralised recycling facilities to emphasise and enhance the Park community's own recycling culture by reshaping existing practices in keeping with the sustainable living ethos of the community and the Zero Waste Scotland initiative to "create a society where resources are valued and nothing is wasted".

Objectives

To enable more residents, employees, and visitors (community members) to actively recycle.

To raise awareness about the range of materials which can be saved from landfill.

To provide interactive facilities that aim to encourage members of the community to actively get involved in reducing the amount of waste. The recycling hub design will have the flexibility to allow for the setting up of temporary collections of materials whether large or small. Users will be encouraged collect materials for reuse (e.g. paint and craft materials).

To redirect non-community members to use their own appropriate local recycling facilities (e.g. Waterford Recycling Centre) through appropriate signage.

To create a community-wide model of responsible recycling in action for education purposes, demonstrating the core principles of the Findhorn Foundation: Inner listening, co-creation with nature and demonstrating that work is love in action.

To reduce carbon emissions from multiple journeys to local recycling points.

To reduce the volume of landfill collected from the Park.

Current Context

Through the Gather in process, the NFA has recently provided funding for this and related projects (Zero-Waste on the park, Reduction of Carbon emissions).

A survey of Park residents was held in 2015 which demonstrated support for a Recycling hub.

The NFD have committed support in terms of construction of the Hub and collection and transportation of materials on a regular basis.

Benefits

The main benefit of the Policy will be that the community will reduce waste and conserve precious materials, thus limiting the community's contribution to greenhouse gas emissions.

Other benefits include; engaging community members in sharing useful resources, becoming more energy efficient and providing a model for sustainable living to the wider community.

Responsibilities

The NFD and NFA will take over joint responsibility for the Recycling on the Park.

A team of dedicated NFA volunteers will handle the day to day running of the recycling.

All community members will be asked to use the hub and to assist with transport when possible.

Appendices

Materials Currently collected on the Park

General Office. Postage stamps, Printer cartridges, Batteries, Reading glasses, Candles, Glass jars, Padded envelopes

Maintenance and Homecare. Bulbs

The Boutique, Clothing, bubble wrap, crockery, wood, metal, craft materials

Clothing Bank close to the Phoenix

Zero Waste Scotland Activities

<http://www.zerowastescotland.org.uk/>

Findhorn Foundation Model for sustainable Living

<https://www.findhorn.org/aboutus/ecovillage/>

Recycling Survey results