

Grange Prestonfield Community Council
Wednesday 21st January, 2009
Prestonfield Primary School

Present:

Kate Arnott (Chairman), Sue Tritton (vice-chair), Andreas Grothey (Treasurer), Graham Brown, John Palmer, Mat Lopez, Kirsty Pacitti, Mike Hunter, Myra Reid, Barbara Robertson, David Stevenson, Douglas Fisher, Alastair Pugh, James Bryce, Tony Harris.

In Attendance:

Cameron Rose (Councillor), Constable Mark Dickson (Lothian and Borders Police), Alan Stewart (C.E.C), Ray Footman (Blacket Association), Peter Wood (Mortonhall Residents Association).

Apologies:

Joe Henderson, Maureen Edwards, Erick Davidson.

The Chairman welcomed and wished all those present a Happy New Year. She also wished to place on record her thanks at the quick response by Prestonfield Primary School in allowing us to host the meeting as our usual venue Cameron House Community Centre is being relocated to new premises and the next meeting will be held there.

Minutes of the last meeting:

The minutes had been circulated and were a true record of the meeting held on 19th November, 2008 (with the addition that Kirsty Pacitti was present). This was proposed by Alastair Pugh and seconded by Kirsty Pacitti.

Matters arising not covered by agenda:

There were no matters arising.

Reports:

Alan Stewart (Edinburgh Council) spoke of roads which have not had work carried out in this year's budget then work to complete them will be carried forward to the next year. He gave details of the works at the junction of West Mains and Langton and the crossing by pedestrians there. Douglas Fisher, after a concern raised by a resident re road works, asked if details of proposed works are sent to residents. Alan Stewart and Councillor Rose responded, saying that in the case of major road works they are released through the press. There is also the council web-site which gives details and in certain circumstances if access is required then the council will call door to door in the area affected. All roads that require upgrading are forwarded to council members.

Roads Project:

John Palmer intimated to the members and guests that a list of potential roads proposals had been drawn up and circulated to the members. He had received feedback and outlined to the council the Roads Capital Proposals 2009. A full discussion took place on roads such as Priestfield Road, speed bumps or pinch points to slow traffic down. There were a considerable number of school and elderly people who use that area. The discussion continued with Observatory Road, West Savile Terrace, Blackford Avenue to junction with West Savile Terrace, West Blacket Association. There continued discussions regarding the merits of each proposal and the chairman felt that in some instances the residents association could also submit ideas/proposals/suggestions in relation to proposed works to give a more powerful voice by acting together. John also gave details of the outcome of proposals made in 2008. These had been submitted to the council and whilst had not been accepted under the capital roads project had been referred to other departments of the council for consideration and we were awaiting developments. The chairman also intimated that she had recently had a meeting with Shaun McGrath (Edinburgh Council), the Vice Chair and Jo Scott and Hilary MacDowell (Southside CC) to examine these issues and report back to the next Neighbourhood Partnership meeting (Feb 23rd).

Councillor Rose in respect of the junction of West Savile Terrace and Mayfield Road reported that an engineering audit is presently being carried out. The options being considered are:

1. Traffic lights at the junction.
2. Engineering works with sight lines, give way markings, a traffic island.

A recent accident had occurred where a cyclist had been injured and over the past ten years there had been 13 cyclists injured.

There was the possibility that, due to the high number of pedestrians (pupils going to school, university students en route to the University, the proximity of shops nearby) together with the amount of traffic on this very busy road, a public meeting may be held to consider the views of local residents and recommendations from the audit. The CC would be kept informed of further developments

Police Report:

The chairman welcomed at this point Constable Mark Dickson who introduced himself and was taking over from Constable Tom Hopper. He spoke of how he would become involved tackling issues within the Prestonfield area and with the new community council building will focus on being involved there. He would continue to update the council of current initiatives and crimes. He answered questions regarding tax discs and possibly drug dealing in one of the council areas. He also intimated that a man had been arrested for 60 offences in the Prestonfield and Grange area. The continuing issue of newsletters by him and other officers covering the council area would continue.

Reports of Officer Bearers:

Chairman

The chairman, Kate Arnott, intimated that she had attended several Neighbourhood Partnership Business Meetings. The South Central Community Plan highlighted areas of social deprivation in the Dumbiedykes and Prestonfield areas. She had also attended a meeting on 3rd December, 2008, at Holyrood where Gavin Brown M.S.P. spoke on the South Suburban Passenger Railway. This would carry passengers from Kinnaird Park to the Gyle in the west side of the city. This was an issue that the CC considered should be kept live. It was agreed that Lawrence Marshall could be invited to discuss the economic viability of such a transport initiative. She also intimated that the Neighbourhood Partnership has £45,000 in the Fairer Scotland Fund for deprived areas, although at present no conclusive proposals have been accepted.

Treasurer:

The treasurer Andreas Grothey gave details of the funds held by the council. There was £766.87 in the bank although there were two bills of approximately £40 to be paid. Due also to the change of venue there may be a charge for the hire of the school for this meeting.

Secretary:

The secretary Sue Tritton intimated that she had received an invitation for a street naming workshop. Tony Harris said that he would attend on behalf of the council and report back on the criteria for naming of streets. There was also a meeting this Saturday on Culture and Leisure being held by the City Council and three members of the council would attend and report back at the next meeting. She had also received a notice that the 'Evening News' was looking for items of good news to be printed in February. Eileen Hewitt was compiling a Community Council Newsletter and the chairman said that she would submit an article on behalf of our council for inclusion.

Interest Groups (All written)

Planning:

Tony Harris had circulated to the members details of the planning sub-group. This covered such topics as Edinburgh university- King's Building Campus, Parking standards, Edinburgh City Local Plan. Engagement with Community Councils, Planning and Economic development and the recent legal requirement of homes for sale which now have to be marketed with a Home report. He also intimated that at the next meeting he will discuss a consultation document proposal on

'householder development rights', which gives the householder a greater scope of development. It would cover conservation and non-conservation areas

Roads and Transport:

John Palmer spoke about the Controlled Parking Zone where the council had submitted their proposals based on the two public meetings. To date there had been no acknowledgments from Edinburgh Council. This did not take into account private objections. It is anticipated that there will be no feedback until at least February 2009.

Environment:

Sue Tritton intimated that the report had been E mailed to the council members.

Communications:

Andreas Grothey was willing to give a workshop/training session for those members on working the council web-site. He would contact the members to arrange times and dates.

Licensing:

Mat Lopez spoke of checking the licensing lists. There had been no acknowledgement from the Council to an objection submitted to the extension of a late licence for the Prestonfield House Hotel. Cllr Rose offered to chase this. Mike Hunter spoke of premises near to where he lived and a late night extension. He had met the owners and very pleased with their attitude and did not envisage any complaints.

Review of Community Council Scheme:

Sue Tritton circulated to the members copies of the City of Edinburgh Council 'Scheme for Community Councils'. It is a long document and she asked that members look at the report and respond with any thoughts by the next meeting. A response to the council is required by the end of February.

Meeting Dates in 2009:

The next meeting is 18th February 2009 and 18th March 2009. There was also a discussion on a change of day from a Wednesday. The secretary intimated that she would E mail the members to gauge their personal views and report back to the council.

AOCB and Open Forum:

Tony Harris spoke of a series of exhibitions that are being held re the proposed new Forth Road Bridge. Details of the venues can be seen on the web 'Forth Crossing'. The secretary also emphasised that consideration could be given to the following speakers at future meetings.

- a, South side suburban railway. (Lawrence Marshall)
- b. Community Council. New Cameron House - What the new centre offers?
- c. Police talk on Crime Prevention measures.
- d. Edinburgh Council speaker on the Meadows, Fly-posting, graffiti, domestic violence..

The chairman closed the meeting and thanked those attending.

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 18th February at the new Cameron House Community Education Centre.