

GRANGE PRESTONFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Grange and Prestonfield
Community Council
Wednesday 18th June 2008.
Cameron House Community Education Center

Present. Kate Arnott, Sue Tritton, Douglas Fisher, David Stevenson Barbara Robertson, Joe Henderson, Graham Brown, Tony Harris, Kirsty Pacitti, Jim Bryce, Alan Stewart, Maureen Edwards, Myra Reid, Alastair Pugh, Erick Davidson, Andreas Grothey,

In attendance Councillor Gordon Mackenzie; Sergeant Wickstead, Lothian and Borders Police Constable; Alan Hopper, Lothian and Borders Police

Apologies Mansour Ahmadian Mike Hunter, Mike Pringle.

Members of the Public. Graham Muir, David Giles, Isabella Ferguson Robin Ferguson, Maureen Ruxton Callum Giles, Rennie Giles, Dorothy Vidler, Luisa Horn, H.J.Arnott, Andrew Bell, Graham Mills.

Minutes of the last Meeting. The secretary Douglas Fisher informed those present that the minutes of the last meeting were in draft form, due to a technical problem and they were not being presented them as minutes of the meeting at present.

Matter Arising. The chairperson Kate Arnott added that a member of the public at the last meeting asked if Andreas Grothey and Mansour Ahmadian were on the electoral roll and he was informed at that meeting that they were. The chairperson welcomed Sergeant Wickstead who gave those present a brief outline of her status at St. Leonard's police Station.

Police Report. A report of Operation Allegro which was running during the summer months was given which would target anti-social behavior, within the Meadows and Newington area. A dedicated unit to cover the Edinburgh festival at the Pleasance, Meadows, and Bristo Square. It would be high visibility patrols. There had been a high number of break-ins to garden sheds and general advice to the public would be given in a newsletter to be published this month

Reports. The chairman said that a newsletter had been edited, printed and wished to place on record her thanks to Andreas Grothey and Erick Davidson for the large amount of work involved in completing this task. The council members would deliver the newsletters.

John Palmer asked if Neighbourhood Partnership has had funds allocated from the Fairer Scotland Fund? Sue Tritton would confer with John to see how this allocation was progressing.

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Andreas Grothey as treasurer gave details of the finances to date, which were £170.31p. The cost of the newsletter to be printed was £560.00 and had applied to the Council who have the application and which would be going for approval at the next council meeting

The secretary Douglas Fisher said that he had received two letters. One was from the licensing department asking for unpaid members to assist them and any person interested can contact him for further details. There were also details of a community newsletter. A letter on behalf of the community council had been sent to the University of Edinburgh, thanking them for their presentation last meeting. A Support for Learning report had been seen by himself and Graham and comments had been forwarded to the relevant body.

Communications group. Andreas Grothey asked the members and others present that he would welcome any ideas on how the GPCC web site could be improved. He would welcome any comments

Planning. Tony Harris said that the June report had been sent to members, together with a draft of car-parking regulations. He said that a meeting was being held today at a council sub-committee regarding the property at 3 Craigmillar Park. No decision has been made. A master plan for the King's Building Campus was being issued for public consultation in the future. He then spoke about 41-43 Craigmillar Park (meeting yesterday) it is not yet a planning application but it is possible that at the end of June, it could be. The secretary asked what our position would be in this case as this is the last meeting of the council before the summer break? Tony said that we could request consultation and that could be three or four weeks. At this point due to the interest of the above item the chairperson opened up the meeting to interested parties in the audience. A resident of the Lady Road area presented a petition which had been signed by 270 residents objecting to the proposed development of 41-43 Craigmillar Park. The chairman thanked him and explained that the Grange/Prestonfield council had commenced only in November 2007. As a new council we had lacked experience and expertise and were unable to carry out a consultation of local residents. A long discussion then took place and Councillor Gordon McKenzie spoke on the role of the full City Council in relation to planning applications. The chairman at this juncture read out the petition regarding the property at 41-43, Craigmillar Park. It was noted that the date of the petition was February 2008 and that this was the first sight this particular council had of its contents.

Roads and Transport. John Palmer spoke about the dates of public enquiries into areas, which are designated as shopping zones and those, which are not. Tony Harris said that he would contact John about this and we as a council if we so wished could submit our concerns. John also spoke about the cycle path at the braid Burn and a bus shelter at Mayfield Road near Suffolk Road, which was missing. To date there had been no reply to enquiries from the council. The Neighbourhood partnership had been allocated £100,000 for transport routes and he spoke of 'safe routes to school' where Sciennes had produced a plan. It was apparent this was a major exercise. He then spoke about the junction of West Savile Terrace and Mayfield Road. This was a dangerous road for children to cross. The council is to support an application for a road engineer to

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submit a plan to make this junction, which is also used a great deal by students on route to Kings Building, the elderly and many other local residents. Consideration could also be given to a study the feasibility of a footbridge. John intimated that he would as a traffic management issue draft a proposal re the crossing to be passed to the full council.

Environment. The chairman had attended a meeting of Environment forum 2 recently and was in the process of arranging a safety and cleansing officer to attend one of our meetings to explain the council's work.

Items for discussion The chairman spoke about the consultation papers where there was a proposal to move consultation on Planning from Community councils to Neighbourhood Partnerships. Tony Harris intimated that he would write a letter to the council. It would cover points such as they are larger, how do they see their role? There followed a long discussion on the role of Neighbourhood partnerships.

The secretary gave details of a consultation of draft model for establishment and code of conduct for community councils. It is a long document the main proposals are to reduce the size of community councils, remove nominated members from registered interest groups. It has to be elected members only. There also followed a discussion on the proposed extension to the controlled parking zones. Sue Tritton spoke of a three-week consultation process due in the middle of August or early September. This would be a public meeting on how the proposed scheme is to be implemented. Councillor McKenzie spoke about meetings requiring more local input.

The Kings Building master plan is due out for public consultation during August/September.

At a future meeting Sgt Everitt would be invited to talk to the council about the protection of wildlife.

A.O.C.B. The chairman spoke about Lady Road. The list of streets in the GPCC area did not include Lady Road; it is part of the Gilmerton, Straiton, Inch CC area which does not have a functioning community council. The matter has gone to the Reporting Officer. Legal opinion is being sought and we await clarification. The Chairman, on behalf of GPCC, undertook to consider matters that affected both the Lady Road residents and the residents of the current GPCC area. These residents would receive the newsletter now being distributed.

Public Forum. A member of the public spoke about 41-43 Craigmillar Park. The Council were asked to contact the Ambulance service about the noise made by ambulances in that area whilst on their way to and from Edinburgh Royal Infirmary

The date of the next meeting will be 17th September 2008 at 7pm.