

Grange Prestonfield Community Council.  
Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2008.  
Cameron House Community Education Centre.

**Present:**

Kate Arnott (Chairman), Sue Tritton (Vice Chair), David Stevenson, Barbara Robertson, Joe Henderson, Graham Brown, Douglas Fisher, Mike Hunter, Jim Bryce, Cecilia Irvine, Maureen Edwards, John Palmer, Tony Harris

**In attendance:**

Alan Stewart (Edinburgh Council), Constables Charles Everitt and Neil Sinclair (Lothian and Borders Police)

**Apologies:**

Mike Pringle M.S.P., Erick Davidson, Kirsty Pacitti, Myra Reid.

**Members of the Public:**

Dale Finlayson, Rosemary Gold, Bert Arnott.

**Welcome:**

The chairman Kate Arnott welcomed the committee and members of the public to the first anniversary of the community council, as the first meeting had been held in the City Chambers one year ago. Before the official community business she welcomed Constable Charles Everitt, who is a Lothian and Borders police wildlife Officer. In a very informative and interesting talk he emphasised there is a wide variety of crimes and incidents within Edinburgh. Incidents that he had dealt with included a dead python, trapped birds in a front garden, a buzzard in a back garden, foxes hunted by dogs, dog fighting within a house. There was and continues to be a considerable amount of illegal activity within the city area. There followed an open forum where a wide range of questions and answers involving wild animals within the Edinburgh area were discussed. This covered large badger sets in suburban railway areas, seagulls, foxes and their increasing numbers in suburbia and with the introduction of wheelie bins the less food in they can forage for. He was thanked by the chairman for a very valuable input to the council.

**Minutes of the last meeting:**

The chairman Kate Arnott handed over this part of the meeting to the vice chair Sue Tritton who had acted in her absence at the last meeting. The minutes were accepted as a true record of the proceedings, proposed by Joe Henderson and seconded by Tony Harris.

**Matters arising not covered by the agenda:**

A letter was circulated to council members that had been delivered to the residents of Lady Road regarding their inclusion in the Grange/Prestonfield Community Council. This letter by Susan Bruce-Neighbourhood Manager, emphasised the current position and the plans for the future with regard to the nomination of a representative in October, 2009 elections.

**Police Report:**

Constable Sinclair spoke about a group of youths who had been featured in the local newspapers and television. He reassured the council that they were not controlling the centre of the town. On a more local issue the bus gate at Priestfield Road, in part due to the roadworks in Dalkeith Road is being abused by motorists and continuing patrols by the police were in force. There were incidents of spray painting (tagging) in the Grange area and continuing attention was being given to trace the culprits responsible. There was liaison with the council on firework safety and fireworks. A handout was circulated to the members and public present of advice 'Tac Talk' which emphasised bonfire night, patrols in the Meadows, anti-social behaviour, this had been widely circulated within the community. Action in relation to damage by vandals to buses was also being addressed with patrols on a regular basis.

**CEC Report:**

Alan Stewart of Edinburgh Council gave the council and update of items covered in the previous meeting. The manhole cover in Mayfield Road had been repaired and a further repair in Mentone Terrace had a notice served on a public utility to carry out the work. A bus shelter at Suffolk Road had been replaced. The Forum 2 mailing list had been updated to include Barbara Robertson. Details of the Neighbourhood Partnership website were also explained further. Papers for Neighbourhood Partnership meetings will be forwarded

in hard copy to representatives and their substitutes. He also updated the council on an enquiry by a resident in Prestonfield Bank where the parking spaces were being used by non residents.

### **Chairman's Report:**

The chairman spoke and handed to the members a report about a trip she had made around the south neighbourhood investment programme where a series of works had been carried out to enhance the area by carrying out repairs. It was very positive and felt that there could be areas within the remit of this council where such a scheme could be implemented. She had also attended a Neighbourhood Partnership meeting and in relation to the Kings Building Planning framework we as a council are a consulter. We have been invited to the next meeting and it is a 20 year programme. There are neighbourhood grants available to enhance the area. One of the many items covered by the the Neighbourhood Partnership was that the life expectancy of a male in the Grange area was 80.7 years in whilst in the south side it was 68.8 years.

Treasurers report. Due to the absence of the treasurer there was no discussion on accounts but there had been no outlay in the accounts of the council.

### **Secretary's Report:**

The interim secretary Sue Tritton spoke of the letter that she had received about the Lady Road residents and copies had been circulated to the council members. She had received notification about flu jabs for the elderly, and the criteria that are eligible. There is planning training for council members on 1<sup>st</sup> November and four members of the council intimated that they would be willing to attend. A form would be circulated giving further details shortly.

### **Interest Groups:**

#### Planning

Tony Harris gave a report on the Kings Buildings Campus draft planning framework. This document was approved for consultation by the CEC Planning Committee at its meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2008. The key principles of the framework are to protect and refurbish listed and other key buildings, including the removal of existing poor quality buildings and development of open spaces. Comments on the framework have to be completed by 5<sup>th</sup> December 2008. At our next meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> November it is hoped that a speaker from the University of Edinburgh (Andrew Sykes) will give a presentation. Tony also spoke about existing Parking Standards Guidelines and town centres and high streets. He also gave details of the Edinburgh City Local Plan Enquiry.

#### Roads and Transport

John Palmer gave a report on the application for a pedestrian crossing on Charterhall Road. As yet he had received no reply from the Neighbourhood Partnership. A long discussion took place on the forthcoming controlled parking zone extension; public meetings to be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> October, 2008. Leaflets have been distributed inviting members of the public to attend and it is hoped that members of the council will attend both meetings.

#### Environment

Sue Tritton gave details of the Capital Roads Funding of the South Central Neighbourhood Partnership. She also had two copies of the book *Trees in the Grange* which are available to council members.

#### Communications

Sue Tritton proposed the purchase of "WORD" to assist the Minutes Secretary, Graham Brown. Andreas to advise.

#### Licensing

Kate Arnott reported on an enquiry from a resident in the Prestonfield area about any action that the Noise Abatement Society can take to reduce noise levels at the local hotel. She also asked for a volunteer from the council to check the list of Licensing Applications in the area, covering the renewals of pubs, traders, saunas and any other licensed establishments.

#### AOCB

Nothing to report

#### Open Forum

A discussion evolved on the subject of Giant Hogweed in Craigmillar Park, near Cemetery Drive. To be continued.

**Date of next meeting: WEDNESDAY, 19<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2008 at 7p.m.**