

## **Grange Prestonfield Community Council**

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2008**

Cameron House Community Education Centre

### **Present:**

Sue Tritton (Vice-chair), Andreas Grothey (Treasurer), Barbara Robertson, Joe Henderson, Myra Reid, Graham Brown, Mansour Ahmadian, John Palmer, Tony Harris, Maureen Edwards.

### **In attendance:**

Susan Bruce (Edinburgh Council), Alan Stewart (Edinburgh Council), Constables Tom Hopper and Neil Sinclair, Lothian and Borders Police, Councillor Gordon Mackenzie, Andrew Bell (Grange Association).

### **Apologies:**

Chairman Kate Arnott, David Stevenson, Alastair Pugh, Mike Hunter, Jim Bryce, Cecilia Irvine, Douglas Fisher, Erick Davidson. Mike Pringle M.S.P.

### **Members of the Public:**

Mat Lopez, Catherine Murray.

### **Minutes of the last Meeting:**

In the absence of the Chair, Sue Tritton welcomed everybody present and intimated that at present she would be acting as temporary secretary. The secretary Douglas Fishers wife is ill. Flowers have been purchased and passed on to her by the council. She emphasised that the cost was borne by the community members and not taken from official funds. The minutes of the meeting on 21st May 2008 had not been formally adopted at the last meeting due to a technical problem and were now adopted as a true record of the proceedings, proposed by Tony Harris and seconded by John Palmer. The minutes for the previous meeting on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2008, were formally adopted as a true record of the proceedings. Proposed by Joe Henderson and seconded by Andreas Grothey.

### **Matters Arising:**

Susan Bruce of Edinburgh Council spoke at length about the boundary line of the Community Council and Lady Road. She said that the inclusion of Lady Road within the boundary of the Grange/Prestonfield Community Council would have been logical but it was not so. In the forthcoming elections (autumn 2009) to the community council, Lady Road would be moved into the Grange/Prestonfield CC when Lady Road Residents would be able to stand for election. She intimated that a letter would be sent by Edinburgh Council to all residents of Lady Road with the above details more fully explained.

### **Police Report:**

Constable Hopper spoke of the number of operations that had been carried out over the Festival period where under age drinking had been highlighted. A licensed premise in Newington Road had its liquor licence revoked. There had been six officers based in George Square/ Meadows area during the Festival and there had been a 89% decrease in violent crime during this period compared to 2007. There had been a slight increase in thefts from motor cars, especially sat nav, and advice was ongoing for motor vehicle owners to remove this equipment when the vehicle was left unattended. Councillor Mackenzie asked about advice to students who were returning to the university after the break, Constable Sinclair spoke of a portacabin that had been utilised giving them crime prevention advice. A newsletter on the same basis had been produced and used in Pollock Halls and there was a close liaison with Edinburgh University staff wardens for this advice to be given a wide circulation with houses and other suitable places. John Palmer asked about a car-jacking that had taken place in East Mayfield recently. Constable Hopper said

that two men had been arrested for this crime. Constable Sinclair emphasized that there were instances of people leaving their front doors open and thefts had occurred and for people to be aware and vigilant. There had also been a number of bicycle thefts and to date had been a solved rate of 48%. The question of the misuse of the bus gates at the foot of Prestonfield Road was being addressed and a greater number of motorists were using them due to the road works in Dalkeith Road. Continues patrols were reporting motorists for these offences The police newsletter would continue to be published and Councillor Mackenzie spoke of the new community centre being built and the use of CCTV attached to the building which could be utilised in respect of the bus gates.

### **Reports:**

Alan Stewart (Edinburgh Council) would make enquiries regarding a bus shelter at Suffolk Road at Ross Gardens which had been removed and report back to the council. He would also make enquiries about a main manhole sewer at Brights Crescent/West Mayfield which is in need of repair. Enquiries by Tony Harris as to the 'ownership' had to date drawn a blank.

A long discussion took place between John Palmer and Susan Bruce about funding and regeneration of areas which have levels of deprivation. A copy of those areas that fall into these criteria was circulated to the council members and the three priorities to eradicate this problem are 'intervention', 'health and equality', 'employability'. Susan spoke of what services are available? What services are available in other parts of the city? The discussion also covered revenue funding rather than capital projects.

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

Sue Tritton spoke about the Neighborhood Partnership meeting that Andreas Grothey had attended for the CC. He gave details of the refuse collection will be changing to give a greater emphasis for recycling and the current policy of the council regarding Houses of multiple Occupancy (HMO). The Sciennes Marchmont area would like a limit on the number of houses falling into this category. The main outcome was what could be done to rental property in such circumstances? Tony Harris spoke about his knowledge of the City Local Plans about numbers of houses that fall into this category.

### **Treasurer's report:**

The treasurer Andreas Grothey revealed that the council had received a £500 grant (towards the production of the newsletter) and the maintenance fund of £698.92. The out goings were £609.95 for the printing and publishing of the first newsletter. There was present at this date a total of £759.58

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

Sue had received correspondence (by email) from the developers regarding the property at 41-43 Craigmillar Park and the Police Newsletter.

Also received was a ballot paper for the reformed Constitution for the ASCC. Papers were circulated and members asked to notify the Chair before Sept 30<sup>th</sup> with their view on how to vote.

### **Interest Groups:**

**Planning** - Tony Harris gave a report on Edinburgh Council had granted permission to the developers at 41-43 Craigmillar Park with a large number of conditions. To date there had been no further developments of the master plan for King's buildings. He had attended a Civic Forum meeting of community councils on 9<sup>th</sup> September in the City Chambers. He spoke of the number of community councils that are overwhelmed with the number of planning applications. With the large proposed development of Kings Buildings there was a need to be more aware of current practice. The organization 'Planning Aid' gives advice on planning applications. He suggested that the council subscribe at a cost of £35 – this was agreed.

**Roads and Transport** -John Palmer spoke at length about the capital roads projects of a pedestrian crossing at Mayfield Road/West Saville Terrace and a bridge over the railway line. These two proposed projects had been rejected in the Portfolio of projects. He asked Susan Bruce (Edinburgh Council) why are some projects rejected and some accepted. A long discussion took place about the role of the community council (Forum members only could vote); some members of the council who should have received the Portfolio had not done so. Susan would ensure that copies of the proposed projects would be forwarded by post to those members. Sue Tritton asked if hard copies of papers for Neighbourhood Partnership meetings could be provided and Susan said she would request that copies be sent to the Chair and vice-Chair of the council. Further discussion took place about the lack of paint missing on speed bumps. When works are carried out the inspection of the completed road works in some cases is less than satisfactory. Susan spoke about the roads and pavement budgets have been increased which would over time be of benefit to everybody. John also spoke about the proposed Controlled Parking Zone and the two planned public meetings. Information would be given as to the dates as soon as possible. A meeting is proposed on 22nd October at Reid Memorial Hall and a further meeting at Mayfield Church. He had also received details of a proposal from the community council regarding a crossing at Charterhall Road near Blackford Pond and suggested that we should support such a crossing.

**Environment** -Sue Tritton spoke about the number of green spaces within the community council and we should identify those areas, see if they are properly maintained and could they be upgraded?

**Licensing** - Sue Tritton asked the members present for a volunteer to check the list of licensed premises for any that are relevant to our community council area. This would allow the members to see if they had received any correspondence, information, from residents about incidents, noise, anti-social behaviour. etc which could be brought to the attention of the Licensing Board prior to the licence being renewed.

**A.O.C.B. :**

A member of the public brought to the attention of the community council, a local hotel (Prestonfield House Hotel) where there was the noise of cars late at night, music. He had direct contact with the hotel but the problem in his opinion was at the present time worse. He had contacted the council regarding the noise, which had eased for a while. It was felt by the community council members present that this was a very valid point and that there should be a licensing sub-group set up which could monitor such situations. When the Licence for the premises is due for renewal then points brought out by residents could be promulgated to the licensing board prior to the granting of the renewal of the licence. Without feedback from local residents it would be difficult to object to the renewal of the licence. The resident was also asked to keep a diary of the noise and could E mail the community council with details, which in turn may result a meeting with the residents and the community council.

**Date of next meeting:**  
**WEDNESDAY, 15<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2008 at 7p.m.**