

GRANGE PRESTONFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CAMERON HOUSE COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTRE
WEDNESDAY 20TH MAY, 2009.
BUSINESS MEETING

Item 1 :Presentation by the developers of the proposed new development at Cameron Toll Shopping Centre

The chairman Kate Arnott warmly welcomed Craig Harrow and Campbell White to the meeting and they commenced by giving an outline of the proposal. A consultation event had taken place at Cameron Toll Shopping Centre where the proposed plans were shown to members of the public regarding the potential planning application to extend the shopping centre. From the feedback they had received there had been an estimated 80% positive response. They went on to outline the fact that work was required to improve the centre by encouraging more local retailers, by adding more interest, possibly in the form of a cinema, restaurants and other retail outlets. There would not be a decrease in the amount of car parking spaces. It was also proposed that consideration be given to a pedestrian bridge at Liberton /Lady Road. During the presentation various questions were asked by the council and the meeting at this point was adjourned to allow the council and public to see plans of the proposed new development. Again various points were raised and answered by the developers. It was not possible at this stage to keep the copy of the proposed plans and Tony Harris would be making arrangements to have a copy forwarded to him in his role as a member of the planning group of the council. Both men were thanked for their input and left the meeting.

Item 2: Minutes of Meeting of 18th March, 2009

The minutes had been circulated and agreed to be a true record of the meeting held on 18th March, 2009. This was proposed by Kirsty Pacitti and seconded by Mansour Ahmadian.

Item 3: Matters arising not covered by the agenda

There were no matters not covered by the agenda.

Item 4: Police report

Constable Clucas thanked the council and intimated that she had only recently commenced working in the community council area. She gave details of crimes in the area over the past month involving housebreaking, car crime and damage to university property. The theft of bicycles was highlighted and with the new influx of students in the area, packs are now given to the students when they commence their studies. She also spoke of newsletter issued by the police and the fact that the format was changing and would be published shortly. A question was asked by Andreas Grothey regarding the accident involving a cyclist injured in Mayfield Road at West Savile Terrace which had happened recently. Constable Clucas intimated that she would find out the present situation regarding this accident. Andreas also mentioned that, whilst there continues to be advice to cyclists to wear protective headwear and easily seen clothing, the emphasis should also be on motorists to take care when cyclists are around. On a recent visit to Denmark he had noticed that on several streets large banners had been erected between the buildings over the roads stating 'Motorists Take Care'. This he felt was a very positive initiative.

Item 5: Chairman's report

Kate Arnott, the Chairman, spoke of the meetings she had attended: a business meeting for capital roads funding; a consultation where the subject of General Practice services was discussed and the Meadows Festival (6/7th June) meeting, where we as a council had agreed to

share a stall to outline the work of the council and also hand out copies of our proposed newsletter. On 23rd March, along with the secretary, Sue Tritton, a meeting with the owners of Prestonfield House Hotel in the council area regarding excessive noise when functions at the hotel finish late at night. The owners had reported to them the steps they had taken to alleviate this problem, especially during the late evening/ after midnight. They were also working with taxi-drivers and bus companies. This is an ongoing process that would be monitored. She had also attended a business meeting of neighbourhood partnership where the subject of funds from 'Fairer Scotland' for the Prestonfield and Dumbiedykes areas was discussed. There was also a meeting where the focus was on Prestonfield and the role played by carers in that particular area. The chairman reported on the Controlled Parking Zone S6 proposal and the two public consultations the council had been involved in. There were approximately one thousand objections to the proposal. Edinburgh Council, due to the number of objections to the scheme, decided that it could not be justified in terms of its costs and the likely revenue it would raise. This is further compounded by the need to extend the zone to Kings Buildings in the near future. Councillor Mackenzie also said that with the other three councillors of the area they were in the process of bringing forward a proposal for redefining S6. The Chairman reported that she would be chairing the meeting with the councillors and Highways Department. Any ideas from the council members and members of the public would be welcome. If they were aware of any other countries or UK cities which have possible solutions for similar problems then such information would be welcome. She would, as soon as possible, when there were any further developments, report these to the council and the public.

The chairman thanked the council members for the flowers and support after her recent illness. A South Central Neighbourhood Partnership Local Community Plan 2008 to 2011 was circulated to the council members and the Treasurer asked if, whilst this appeared to be a completed publication, he could still make comments about the contents. The Chairman emphasised that comments would be welcome. This would be beneficial to all parties.

The Treasurer's and Secretary's reports had been circulated and discussed at the AGM meeting that same evening.

Kate spoke of a tree stump in West Savile Terrace which had now been removed but which now requires the hole to be back-filled. She also spoke about the Environment forum group 2, open to anyone in the area, which deals with waste management, litter and graffiti. DIY kits were available to the council members for use within their particular areas if required. She also spoke of the week of action in the area, which had taken place a short time ago, in conjunction with other agencies. Community funds are available to tackle these problems and she would welcome any ideas or initiatives which could be considered. There was also a meeting on houses of multi-occupancy taking place tomorrow and Tony Harris had kindly agreed to attend the meeting as Sue Tritton was unavailable.

Item 6 - Interest Groups

Planning

Tony Harris reported that he had obtained a copy of the plans for the proposed Cameron Toll development. He was gathering information as comments had to be submitted by 12th June, 2009. He was considering the possibility of a sub-committee being formed and meeting before that date. He asked council members to contact him with comments. He also gave an update on Kings Buildings travel plans and was keeping a watching brief on developments. There was the possibility that with the proposed extension of Cameron Toll and the upgrading of Kings Buildings then there may be greater construction, noise, traffic and disturbance.

Roads and Transport

John Palmer had circulated a paper to the members regarding the controlled parking zones S6 and the proposal for Prestonfield and Priestfield. He questioned why CPZ schemes were proposed

and taken to the advanced level of consultation if neither was financially viable from the outset. He also wondered what plans Edinburgh Council have to alleviate the dismay of those residents in favour of CPZs, wondering if they would be prepared to work with the Community Council in the future to design and implement parking controls that would meet the requirements of all parties. He also asked the members to give details of roads and footpaths that need improvement in order that a list can be put forward to the Council. The report submitted by John was very thorough and he was thanked for his continuing involvement in roads and transport topics and problems.

Treasurer's Report

Andreas Grothey gave brief details of the account and that there was £648.30p in the account at present. Details would also be forwarded to each member by Email. There was nothing to report at this stage by the communication group and the Licensing topic at this stage involving a local hotel had been covered by the chairman.

Item 7: Items for next meeting, Wednesday 17th June. 2009, Cameron House Community Education Centre, 34, Prestonfield Avenue, at 7.00pm.

Members considered whether, in order to display material about the community council, notice or display boards should be purchased.

Item 8: Open Forum

Graham Brown informed the members that children from Prestonfield Primary School, as an out of school activity, were to use the Priestfield Tennis and Sports Association tennis courts and that this was a positive step as the school was using and supporting a local facility. Councillor Mackenzie spoke of the Morgan Playing fields and the role he has in promoting this facility. He requested that any members or the public wishing to utilise this facility should contact him. The Chairman also spoke of the excellent facilities available at the Cameron House Education Centre. She reminded everyone that the centre does of course require funding and requested that if any member has any ideas or thoughts on schemes to enhance the centre they contact her.

Item 9 A.O.C.B.

The chairman had received a tender quote for copies of the newsletter (500 for Meadows Festival and 7,000 for distribution). It was reasonable and she would consider the price to be satisfactory. There were no objections to her proceeding.