

Grange Prestonfield Community Council
Cameron House Community Education Centre
21st April 2010
Minutes

Present: John Palmer(**JP**) (Chair), Tony Harris(**TH**)(Vice-Chair), Andreas Grothey(**AG**)(Treasurer), Sue Tritton(**ST**)(Secretary), David Stevenson(**DS**), Maureen Edwards(**ME**), Gillian Dennis (**GD**),Graham Muir(**GM**), John Fulford(**JF**), Alistair Pugh(**AP**), Maureen Bishop (**MB**), Ray Footman(**RF**)

In Attendance: Cllr Ian Perry, Chris Brace (CEC), PC Mark Dickson, PC Janie Kay

Apologies: Mike Hunter, Leyla Usmani, Alasdair Smith, Lucia Barrett

Public (3):

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair, John Palmer, welcomed everyone to the meeting including Chris Brace, cycling officer for CEC.

2. Minutes of the Meeting of 17th March 2010

GM said that there were omissions in the minutes; suitable amendments were approved and the minutes were agreed.

3. Matters Arising (not on the agenda) - None

4. Cycle Lanes – KB to George Square – Chris Brace, CEC

Chris Brace introduced himself and handed round copies of draft proposals for the “Quality Bike Corridor” from KB to George Square. He said that the QBC was similar in principle to a “Quality Bus Corridor”. This proposal had resulted from a motion raised by Cllr Perry and, following TIE reports was now being designed. One area where the road width may be too narrow to introduce cycle lanes in both directions is in Causewayside, especially near Tesco’s – this stretch may be designated as a “Gateway” (where signage is used rather than lane markings).

Various points were raised in the following discussion; these included:

- € Protection is needed for local shops
- € Should restrictions be in place at weekends
- € Parking only on one side of the street can cause problems with cars crossing the traffic flow
- € Could pavements be widened to make them used by pedestrians and cyclists
- € Possibility of extending the lane to Pollock Halls (contraflow in Salisbury Place?)
- € Problems of cars parking on cycle lanes as on Marchmont Road where the lane is outside parked cars.
- € Need for a safe crossing point on Grange Road at Lauder Road
- € Problem of the red marking wearing out

Cllr Perry said that there will be informal consultation on the proposals to remove minor objections so that the formal TRO may attract fewer objections. Details of this consultation have not yet been worked out.

The Chair announced that there will be a presentation on Cycling at the next general meeting of the Marchmont Sciennes CC (Wednesday May 12th at St Catherine Argyle Church Hall). The Police have £10k to help with bike security.

Chris Brace left at 19.45.

5. External Reports

A. Police Report: PC Dickson confirmed the £10k fund and said that they were working with the Bike Station on bike theft, especially in student accommodation on the security within stairs and on the bike. Bruntsfield has funds for bike racks in the area. He reported that there have been several complaints about cyclists going the wrong way in Salisbury Place. There has been a small quantity of drugs found in the Prestonfield area. During the school holidays the Police concentrated on hotspots for youth crime. Stolen bikes have been offered for sale on Gumtree and several were recovered. Commuters continue to drive through the busgate at Prestonfield Avenue with a handful of persistent offenders. CCTV monitors the busgate and the warning period for drivers has now finished. To form a Neighbourhood Watch residents must first get together – there is information on the website – then invite the CBO to meetings.

PC Janie Kay has been in the Police for 3 years. She is now working in Sciennes with Neill Sinclair and still trying to find her feet.

Inspector Moffat has been moved to Fettes and his replacement is Andy McLauchlan.

Various points raised included:

- € People sleeping in the Lady Road allotments including under a table in a greenhouse. These are alarming (nothing stolen) and have been reported to St Leonards. MD was unaware of this problem and will look into it.
- € GM said that the Police never respond to calls from the Lady Road Neighbourhood Watch. MD went to Lady Road last Sunday but the complainant was out.
- € Cllr Perry asked about the legality of the busgate. MD said it comes under a Road Traffic Regulation Order and, if the offence is accepted, a £30 fine.
- € There are continuing gangs known as the “Southside Team”. MD said this is a continuing problem with early-mid teenagers and the Police work to contain the group.

B. CEC Report (Alan Stewart). In the absence of Alan Stewart there was no report.

6. Update on Parking proposals for S6 Zone

The CC had sent a response to the Council following the meeting on 25th March and further information from Cllr Mackenzie. There are still several issues to resolve including the number of residents bays, timing of restrictions, cost of permits, visitor permits etc. The CEC suggestion of limited single yellow lines had been rejected by the community but the latest proposals had received general acceptance (with provisos). Cllr Mackenzie will report to TIE, noting our views, and that the whole “S6” area should be treated in a similar way. There may be further informal consultation before July to sort out any remaining problems.

7. Reports of Interest Groups

A. Planning (TH): A report had been circulated. Additional points include:

- € 5 Alfred Place. Case officer is waiting for further information from the applicants
- € Allotments. ME completed the questionnaire. The Planning Group met and TH circulated a response.
- € Open Space. Another meeting required to form a response before the May meeting. One issue was access to the cemetery – via land owned by residents in Ventnor Place? Volunteers wanted.
- € NP and Planning. Lots of duplication – can the amount of (often contradictory) documentation be reduced.

GM said that the GPCC should not be commenting on the Cameron Toll application as it is not in the CC area. TH said that the CC is able to comment but suspected the development wouldn't happen.

AP reported on a BT mast which had been erected outside 14 Observatory Road. There was confusion about whether this was allowed (BT has “permitted development” rights but only on land it owns). No decision as to whether the CC should comment on this.

GM reported an illegal development at 7 Lady Road – there is an enforcement report dated 30th March. TH recognised the issue GM raised and would object to the application on behalf of the CC.

B. Roads and Transport: See above.

C. Environment: Circulated.

D. Licensing: LB reported there was one application for Leslies Bar. GM said the Travelodge had applied for a music licence although there had been promises of no music. LB to investigate.

8. Reports of Office Bearers

A. Chair's Report: JP had negotiated with the Head Teacher of Sciennes Primary School that the newsletter would include information about the GPCC and Marchmont Sciennes CC.

B. Treasurer's Report: There was £1025.72 in the bank (including 7p interest!)

C. Secretary's Report: The report had been circulated. The CCs joint meeting will be in June – topics could include NP and Planning and Community Safety and the Police.

ST reminded the meeting that the CC had agreed to write to Nigel Griffiths when he left office. JF agreed to draft a letter.

9. Reports from other groups - none

10. Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 19th May 2010 (AGM)

11. AOCB and Open Forum

It was reported that traffic is turning right from Craigmillar Park into the Travelodge – and that this can be dangerous.

| The meeting closed at 9.05pm.

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