

Secretary's Report for March 2011

(Incorporating Environment Report)

This reports on activities since February 2011.

Correspondence:

Various items in circulation file – please contact Sue if you want a copy of any.
(Some, which are still relevant, were also included last month)

- Email about consultation on Fire & Rescue Service – consultation document can be found at www.scotland.gov.uk/FireReform - closing date 5 May 2011
- Email about Consultation of new Management Plan for Hermitage of Braid and Blackford Hill Nature Reserve – comments by 1 May 2011.
- Proposed 20mph limit (updated)
- TRO 10/31 Residents Priority Parking Scheme
- The Big Lunch Sunday June 5th
- Summary of EACC Big Debate on Poverty

James Gillespie's High and Primary Schools – Consultation

Public Exhibitions 21st March – 22nd April (including Newington Library)

31st March – Public Meeting at JGHS

13th April – Marchmont /Sciennes CC Public Meeting.

Environment.

Forum 2 – Joint meeting Monday April 4th

The joint meeting of Forums 1 and 2 will be held in the City Chambers on Monday April 4th – Sue and Mo normally attend but these meetings are open to everyone. The main agenda items will be discussion on the Council's "Winter Weather" plans for the future and the Community Plan. Suggestions already made to help in snowy conditions include more encouragement for residents and businesses to clear pavements (a possible by-law has been suggested) and priority to hilly areas like Blackford Hill which are particularly dangerous in snow and ice. Any other suggestions to Sue or Mo before the meeting.

Capital Roads Funding: The date for the Capital Roads Funding selection meeting has been set for Thursday 24th March. GPCC will have 2 reps (Sue and Mo); the proposals will be available for the meeting to advise on GPCC's priorities.

Earth Hour: This year will be on Saturday March 26th 8.30-9.30pm. To support this, please turn off all lights etc. (yes, candles may actually contribute more CO2 but the gesture is important!) – many buildings in the city will be taking part.

Meadows Festival: Saturday and Sunday June 4th and 5th.

Do we want to take part? Should we have leaflets available? I suspect we'll be contacted nearer the date by the organisers.

<http://www.grangeprestonfieldcc.org.uk/wordpress/>

Community Back Greens

Maureen Edwards attended the meeting of the Prestonfield Residents Association on 21st February at which Greig Robertson, Edinburgh Community Back Greens Association gave a presentation. This followed on from the site visit (to the Back Green at 2 Prestonfield Crescent) attended by Maureen, Tony Harris and Sue Tritton which was reported last month. Maureen writes:

“Slides were shown of a similar successful project in Leith and Greig described how the Prestonfield area could be developed to the same standard.

There were approximately 20 residents present many of them older ladies, some of whom said they were “too old” to participate. I spoke of the benefits of community gardening, from my own experience, and that one was never “too old” and if Leith could make a success of it so could Prestonfield.

It was difficult to judge whether the response was enthusiastic or not. The next step will be to leaflet the area and then presumably hold a public meeting. Two other areas in Prestonfield have been identified as potential community gardens.”

Neighbourhood Partnership Matters

SCNP Meeting – Monday March 14th 2011 (attended by Sue) items included:

- There was discussion about the form future events should take and that there should be more “themed” events. The student event held last October was considered to be a great success and will probably be repeated this autumn. The suggestion is that the meeting on June 13th should be a themed “older peoples” event. – the “Health and Well-Being” Group could oversee the planning of this event. Future events could include an “Engaging Young People Event” and “Improve Your Environment Event”.
- Trees in the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links. A total of 35 trees have been lost in the past 2 years and 19 have been planted. Planting in the South Neighbourhood area in 2011/12 will be 25 trees, all in Liberton/Gilmerton – mainly in parks which have no, or very few, trees. There was a lot of concern at the loss of trees in the Meadows – especially cherry trees in the cherry tree lined walks.

Dates of meetings and events which may be of interest (some open to all):

Thursday March 24th – Capital Roads Funding Selection meeting

Saturday March 26th 8.30-9.30pm - Earth Hour

Tuesday March 29th – Civic Forum

Monday 4th April – Forum 1 & 2 Joint meeting

Wednesday 6th April – Celebration Event at Royal Blind School (for one GPCC guest)

Wednesday 20th April – HMO Subgroup

Wednesday April 20th – GPCC meeting

Wednesday May 18th - GPCC meeting (AGM)

Thursday May 19th – SCNP Business meeting

Saturday/Sunday June 4/5 – Meadows Festival

Sunday June 5th – the Big Lunch

Monday June 13th – SCNP meeting (tbc – possible themed event)

<http://www.grangeprestonfieldcc.org.uk/wordpress/>

Wednesday June 15th – GPCC meeting

Sue Tritton, 15th March 2011