

Secretary's Report for September 2011

Correspondence

See the Correspondence file. In particular letters from MP (Sheila Gilmore – NHS Lothian about sirens and 20mph signage) and MSP (Kezia Dugdale – NHS Lothian about pharmacy).

Neighbourhood Partnership

A very badly attended Business Meeting was held on Monday August 22nd - despite previous agreements that meetings would not be held in July or August when most Community Councils do not have meetings. Several important decisions were made although this resulted in considerable concern among the community representatives present.

Community Plan 2011-14

The five priorities for the Community Plan 2011-14 were decided as follows:

Services for Older People

Improve the Environment and Town Centres

Better Services for Young People

Improve Community Safety

Improve the Quality of Life in Dumbiedykes

Up to now the NP has supported 14 subgroups – some better attended than others. This puts a considerable pressure on the resources of the City Council officers and it has also been found difficult to get local representatives to take part in some groups. The proposal is to reduce the number of subgroups to reflect the Community Plan priorities and reduce the burden on Council resources at a time when cuts are being made. A decision on this is expected to be made at the next Business meeting on 10th October. Views are particularly wanted from those who represent the CC on one, or more, subgroups.

See paper separately circulated.

Community Grants Fund

As there were more applications than the remaining funds could support the meeting decided that only partial grants would be made in some cases. Limited funds are still available for any new applications. In previous years there has been money left over at the end of each financial year.

Themed meetings

“Older People’s Themed Event” had been held in June. There are plans for two themed events in November – “Alcohol Misuse and its effects on the Community” and a second “Student Event”.

Future NP Meetings

The themed meetings are replacing the open NP meetings which have been held for the past four years. Decisions will be made at the Business meetings which although “open” (in that the public can attend) are not open for public discussion. There was concern among the NP representatives present that the opportunity for the public to participate in NP meetings was being removed.

Capital Roads Funding

Proposals for consideration should be made before the end of the year – but can be submitted at any time. Should we submit Rankin Drive again? Any other suggestions?

Winter Weather

The Council has produced a report on how it might deal with another winter like last one. Input from GPCC has been made, and taken on board, and there are likely to be various recommendations publicised later in the autumn. The report asks for suggestions of locations for additional grit bins and/or where piles of grit/salt could be placed – suggestions, please, and we'll pass them on. There is also a suggestion that selected local people might be provided with shovels etc. if they agree to lead a local group to clear local pavements etc.

Dates of meetings which may be of interest

Wednesday September 22nd – CYP Open Day

Saturday September 24th – EACC Question Time

Saturday/Sunday September 24/25 – Doors Open Day

Tuesday September 27th – Civic Forum

Wednesday September 28th – Volunteer Recruitment Day

Monday October 3rd – Joint meeting Environment Forums 1 and 2

Wednesday October 5th – Blacket area 20mph signage walkabout

Wednesday October 19th – GPCC meeting

Wednesday October 26th – Environment Forum 2

Wednesday November 16th – GPCC meeting

Tuesday November 29th – Civic Forum

Sue Tritton

19th September 2011