

Grange/Prestonfield Community Council Planning & Development Report – October 2011

35 Fountainhall Road – application 11/02884/FUL: parking space in front garden

An objection was submitted to this application for a car parking space in the front garden of this dwelling within the Grange Conservation Area, on the grounds that the proposal conflicts with the Edinburgh City Local Plan and planning guidance.

SESplan – Strategic Development Plan Authority for Edinburgh & SE Scotland

This was the subject of a presentation at the Civic Forum on 27 September. The Plan area extends from Fife southwards to the Borders, with 6 member authorities comprising Edinburgh, Fife, East Lothian, Midlothian, West Lothian and Scottish Borders. It is one of 4 City Regions, the others being Glasgow and Clyde Valley, TayPlan and Aberdeen City & Shire. During the plan period from 2012 to 2032 the SESplan City Region population is forecast to rise from 1.2 million to 1.4 million, with households rising from 544,000 to 712,000. SESplan does not identify specific development sites, which it is the responsibility of Local Development Plans to determine in conformity with the SESplan strategy. All member authorities have ratified the plan, which will now be subject to a formal representation period from 7 November to 19 December 2011 and after consideration of representations in early 2012 it is expected that it will be submitted to Scottish Ministers by July 2012. The SESplan documentation can be accessed via www.sesplan.gov.uk.

Royal Edinburgh Hospital (REH) & Astley Ainslie Hospital (AAH) Sites

Representatives from Morningside, Merchiston, Marchmont & Sciennes, Fairmilehead and Grange/Prestonfield Community Councils, together with the Grange Association, have come together to consider issues of mutual concern about the future of these two hospital sites. A meeting has been arranged for the 17 November with senior NHS Lothian officials to discuss future plans, including future service provision and its location, planning and access issues and site disposals. Currently some services hitherto provided elsewhere in the city have been relocated to AAH and in the longer term a major development programme is planned for the reprovisioning of the REH site probably leading to parts or the whole of the AAH site being disposed of for other uses. Safeguarding access through this site may then become important for nearby residents as well as having wider implications for the Open Space Strategy and Green Network.

To explore further access and planning issues which might arise in any future site disposal representatives of the above CCs and the Grange Association took part in a well-attended “walkabout” at the AAH site on 13 October. This identified issues affecting access through the site by pedestrians and cyclists, especially to local schools. (See also Chair’s Report)

I also attended the Mental Health & Well-being Forum on 5th October when an update was given on the reprovisioning programme for the REH. Notes of the October 13 and November 17 meetings will be reported to GPCC later as well as updates about these sites as we learn more about what is planned.

Tony Harris