

## **Grange/Prestonfield Community Council Planning & Development Report – November 2011**

### **35 Fountainhall Road – application 11/0288/FUL: parking space in front garden**

This was approved by delegated decision on 31 October 2011. Objections were submitted by GPCC, The Grange Association and some neighbours. The Report accepts that the proposal does not comply with Guidance but states that this breach is acceptable, because permission was given last year for a driveway next door at 37, which also breached the same Guidance, and that there would be no loss to residential amenity in the Conservation Area. This is curious logic as if the CEC planning department continues to ignore its own guidance there must come a point when amenity is compromised, yet officially sanctioned.

### **Royal Edinburgh and Astley Ainslie Hospital Sites**

The separate report issued to GPCC Members explores issues about these sites in greater detail and there will be a further report about the outcome of the meeting with NHS Lothian on 17<sup>th</sup> November. As well as the wider impact that redevelopment of these sites will have on south Edinburgh, our interest is in helping to promote Green Network Actions through a west-east green corridor access and trying to ensure continuity of access for all. As reported last month and referred to in the separate report, a “walkabout” took place in October at the Astley Ainslie site and for information a note about this is attached.

### **SESplan – Strategic Development Plan for Edinburgh & SE Scotland**

The scope and timetable for this was referred to in last month’s report, when a very brief summary was given. The Plan itself is now going through a period for formal representations to be made following its ratification by the constituent authorities. This period ends on 19<sup>th</sup> December. The plan documentation is available for consultation at public libraries and the planning reception desk at Waverley Court and comprises:-

- The Proposed Plan Document
- The Action Programme Final Document
- The Environmental Report Final Document

These documents may also be downloaded via [www.sesplan.gov.uk](http://www.sesplan.gov.uk) and following links. The Sesplan does not specify sites for development, but sets the strategy for Local Development Plans to follow and implement and the Plan itself may have no discernible direct impact on an urban area such as GPCC with an already established character. Therefore, bearing in mind that we made comments in 2010 on the Main Issues Report, unless anyone has specific concerns about this documentation it is not intended to submit any further comments.

### **Edinburgh Local Development Plan – Main Issues Report**

When finalised the Edinburgh Local Development Plan will supersede two existing Local Plans, the Rural West Edinburgh Local Plan and the Edinburgh City Local Plan adopted on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2010. The new LDP will be based on a review and update of the existing Plans and when adopted, by about the end of 2014, will replace them. The Edinburgh LDP Main Issues Report has now been issued for consultation which closes on 27<sup>th</sup>

January 2012. The documentation comprises the Main Issues Report (MIR) with details of how to comment and which also sets out 20 policy questions to help guide the plan process, together with a separate Monitoring Statement and a two volume Environmental Report. We have a hard copy of these documents, which are also available for consultation at city libraries and the planning desk at Waverley Court, as well as being on-line at [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/localdevelopmentplan](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/localdevelopmentplan). The Edinburgh LDP is to be the subject of a presentation at the next Civic Forum on 29<sup>th</sup> November (4.30pm in the City Chambers Business Centre) and there is to be a drop in event at the Faith Mission Auditorium, 548 Gilmerton Road on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November any time between 5pm and 8pm when planning officers will be on hand. Also there will be exhibitions at various locations in the city from 11.00am to 3.00pm including Morrison's at Gilmerton on 19<sup>th</sup> November, the ERI on 23<sup>rd</sup> November, Princes Mall on 3<sup>rd</sup> December and St. James Centre on 14<sup>th</sup> January. This is quite a complex set of documents worthy of more detailed study and it is suggested that the Planning Group meets together with anyone else interested in taking part to see what issues might be of concern to GPCC, with a view to drafting any comments for submission to the January GPCC meeting, before the closing date of 27<sup>th</sup>. If this suggestion is adopted, meeting dates will be proposed preferably after the Civic Forum and some other MIR events have taken place.

#### **Public Realm – Edinburgh Lighting Strategy**

We have been notified that on 6<sup>th</sup> October the Planning Committee approved this draft strategy for consultation which closes on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011. The Strategy outlines four broad objectives:-

- Supporting the capital city's economic, cultural and ceremonial role
- Enhancing community safety, security and amenity
- Developing a co-ordinated and coherent approach to lighting design as an intrinsic part of streets and places
- Minimising energy use, cost and light pollution

The strategy document is available for consultation at the planning reception desk at Waverley Court and is on-line via [www.edinburgh.gov.uk](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk) following links to consultations and lighting strategy. A hard copy has also been requested. This consultation closes during the GPCC recess and any views on it welcome, which will be taken into account in drafting any GPCC response.

Tony Harris