

Grange Prestonfield Community Council
Cameron House Community Education Centre – 21st March 2012
Minutes

Present: Tony Harris (TH) (Vice-Chair), Sue Tritton (ST) (Secretary), Andreas Grothey (AG) (Treasurer), Graham Muir (GM), Maureen Edwards (ME), Mike Hunter (MH), Allister Thom (AT), Gilly Dennis (GD), John Fulford (JF)

In Attendance: Cllr Ian Perry (IP)(from 19.30), Alan Stewart (ASt) (CEC), PC Mark Dickson (MD), PC Lynsey Collins (LC)

Public: none

Apologies: John Palmer (JP) (Chair), Bill Reid(BR) Alistair Pugh (AP), Ray Footman (RF), David Stevenson (DS), Alison Bramley (AB)

1. Welcome and Apologies

TH welcomed everyone and explained that the Chair, John Palmer, had another meeting to attend.

2. Declarations of Interest. None

3. Minutes of the Meeting of 15th February 2012

These were approved; proposed by AT, seconded by MH.

4. Matters Arising (not on the agenda)

- GM was asked if was able to reveal any information about the mediation between the Ambulance Service and Lady Road residents. GM said that the noise levels were still the same, that mediation is ongoing and that the Service hasn't stuck to the agreements made at the meeting.
- JP had written supporting the provision of a pharmacy in Dalkeith Road.

5. External Reports

a) Council Report: ASt said that information he had provided about graffiti removal at the previous meeting had not been recorded. This was that the Police and South's Community Safety Team are planning to do a project in the area to tackle graffiti - most likely will be in Sciennes area. Waiting for final go ahead. Will be going out to record graffiti and then remove wherever possible. Note - can't remove from private business or private houses but will liaise with owners to try and get them to remove. The Community Safety Officer working on this project is Kevin Hawes. Graffiti can be reported to Kevin on 529 5104 or kevin.hawes@edinburgh.gov.uk or to the general South Neighbourhood Community Safety Team on 529 5181 or by e-mail to sfc.southneighbourhood@edinburgh.gov.uk

b) Police Report: PC Dickson reported the following:

- The Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) is carrying out three operations. "Operation Divide" is concentrating on bike thefts and vandalism. There had been a spate of car vandalism in Upper Gray Street – a juvenile had been charged. MH said the locals were pleased that the matter was taken up so quickly by the Police.

- There had been a recovery of approx £7k worth of stolen bikes and laptops (mainly taken from Halls of Residence).
- Vandalism at Prestonfield Primary School had caused £12k worth of damage – smashed windows etc. Police are checking CCTV – investigation is ongoing.
- Operations Dispatch and Aristotle are ongoing.
- Speeding around the school on Peffermill Road – want targeted action on the drivers.
- Enforcement of cyclists going through red lights had some success – especially in the George Square and University area.

PC Collins reported

- the first week of April would concentrate on cyclists and have three phases – a week of education, red light offences, city centre – there would be high visibility patrols.
- Street robberies in Nicolson Street corridor – high visibility police would be present 4pm-2am Thursday/Friday Saturday.

Questions from GPCC:

- TH asked about the spate of break-ins. These had died down but now more again – depend on offenders being in and out of custody etc. MD stressed that residents must be careful – lock inner lobby doors to prevent ship-ins.
- GM said that ambulances had been travelling the wrong way on a dual carriageway – an Audi had braked and a juggernaut ran into it. MD said that prosecutions depended on circumstances – an ambulance driver could be charged.
- AG asked if car drivers are charged with inconsiderate driving with respect to cyclists and he would like to see these drivers being charged. AT said too many cyclists ignore red lights. MD replied that tickets would be issued as appropriate.

c) Councillors Report: Cllr Perry reported:

- With Council Elections in May major strategic issues are being deferred to the new Council.
- Received lots of emails about cycling. With the increase in cycling there will be more accidents – 2 cyclists had been seriously injured recently. Cycling had been a big issue in the consultation on the “Southern Arc” – difficult to resolve – cycles and cars need to be separated but there isn’t enough space.
- All political groups support cycling but there are differences between resources allocated in the manifestos.
- Pleased that Commonwealth Pool had been reopened (2 days ago). GM asked about parking spaces. Most thought this was increased over the previous provision. GD commented about tarmac (not paving) at the top of steps and AG said it was a pity about barriers around the plaza. IP agreed.
- TH said he regretted the closure of Leith Waterworld. IP replied that the design required too many staff and it was too expensive to run.
- There is another attempt to do something with the “Odeon” – problem for developers is the listed cornice in the centre of the building.
- There are many concerns about the lack of Statutory Notices since the “scandal”. CEC will now only issue notices when there are Health and Safety issues (rather than e.g. inconvenience such as water leaks).

- GM complained that blocked gullies he had told IP about were still blocked – IP asked for GM to provide the list again.
- JF asked if Clarence still operates – IP confirmed that it does.
- GM complained about potholes in Lady Road – IP asked for the details again.
- ME reported that there is a city-wide programme to repair/replace missing bollards and bollards with no lights; also that white lines are now being painted around the plinth to increase visibility.
- JF asked about the press reports about the sale of Meadowbank. IP said that a supermarket developer is having controversial (informal talks?) talks with officials – he doubts if any councillor would support such a development.
- GM asked why local parents can send children to Sciennes when Prestonfield Primary has a 40% vacancy rate. IP said this is because of “parental choice” – the Council only has a requirement to provide a place in the local catchment area and parents can apply for children to go elsewhere if that school has space.

6. Reports of Interest Groups

a) Planning: TH had circulated a report. Items to note:

- Information about progress on the AAH/REH re-provisioning had been provided at the “Health and Wellbeing” meeting held yesterday. This would also be discussed at a meeting of local CC reps tomorrow. He would report further in April.
- TH had sent comments (on behalf of GPCC) about the Scotrail franchise consultation – an opportunity to comment on South Sub stations. Changes might lead to additional capacity on this line.

b) Roads and Transport: See email from Cllr Mackenzie (GM) – attached.

- AT said that following the discussion about the proposed changes to the Mayfield Road/ West Savile Terrace (MR/WST) junction he had written to GM with a proposed alternative scheme. He read out his letter and the reply. He was not impressed that GM had asked the transport officials for advice rather than stating his own views.
- TH explained (again) that due to a misunderstanding the office bearers had not understood that the formal consultation on this junction was included in the TRO for the QBC. However, we felt that we had been misled by officials who had implied that GPCC would be consulted again on the redesign of the junction. We now had to accept that this was a “done deal” and couldn’t be challenged although our disappointment should be recorded.
- AT and JF both indicated their anger at the lack of consultation and said that local residents often knew better than officials about suitable designs.
- Agreed that we would write to CEC officials (copied to councillors) requesting confirmation of the promise that full monitoring of the effect of the changes to this junction should be carried out 3 and 6 months after implementation and the results reported to GPCC.
- No date yet for further consultation of possible new Priority Parking areas.
- AG commented about the new bus shelters in Lauder Road (in Marchmont Sciennes CC area) which block the pavement. Should there have been notification? TH said the requested bus shelter in West Savile Terrace had not yet been installed.

Capital Roads Funding: The programme for the Selection meeting (to be held on March 29th) was circulated but those present felt there was not enough time to consider the proposals. The GPCC rep at the meeting would be JP and members were asked to send any comments to him. The Selection panel consists of the 8 councillors, 8 from the Environment Forum, one rep from the 6 CCs, and 3 from the Area Board.

c) **AAH/REH merger.** Meeting of CC reps to discuss the “Planning” side on March 22nd.

d) **Licensing.** No applications for GPCC area.

7. Office Bearers Reports

a) **Chair’s Report:** None

b) **Treasurer’s Report:** AG reported £1070.37 in the Bank account. The insurance was due.

c) **Secretary’s Report.** Circulated

8. Neighbourhood Partnership matters.

a) **SCNP Business Meeting (27th Feb).** Main item had been the provision of bbq sites on the Meadows – agreed that an additional 15 sites could be established. Reports of subgroup meeting were presented – community reps are not happy with the way these groups are being run by officials and that most do not have councillors attending.

b) **Environment and Town Centre Forum (12 March):** ST attended. This group was, somewhat reluctantly, made to select two performance indicators and selected Parks and Recycling. The two Forums had considered graffiti removal etc. and were unhappy that this matter was to be transferred to the Community Safety Group – members wanted assurance that this would continue to be a priority area within the SCNP.

c) **Community Safety Group (formerly Safer Neighbourhood Group) (21 March):** MH reported: “I attended the inaugural meeting of the Community Safety Group, a subgroup of SCNP which takes over the function of the former Safer Neighbourhood Group in advising priorities of the LBP Safer Neighbourhood Team, but also has a wider remit. Those attending included representatives from all CCs in Wards 10 and 15 and other interested parties. The meeting was not entirely satisfactory in that the agenda and other papers had not been pre-circulated and yet was expected to select 2 or 3 performance indicators, from a list of 15 provided, on which the success of policies, to be recommended to SNCP at future meetings, would be judged. I did not feel able, lacking the opportunity to consider or consult, to comment on the selection of performance indicators. I proposed that the date of the next CSG meeting in May should be after that month's GPCC and that the agenda and other papers be circulated before the GPCC meeting - this was agreed by Donald Burgess.”

d) **HMO Working Group (20 March)** This was supposed to be the final meeting of this as a subgroup of the SCNP. The creation of a citywide group has been delayed and there will therefore be another meeting of this group. The main reports related to new licensing and property requirements. It is hoped that some anomalies which allow bad landlords to evade the regulations can now be dealt with.

Health and Wellbeing Group (20 March): TH attended for GPCC. He will report at a later meeting about the AAH/REH reprovisioning. The group was invited to choose two performance indicators and, again, as in the other groups, struggled to understand the point of this.

9. EACC Matters

No meeting since the last GPCC meeting. Insurance will be coming up soon.

10. Date of next meeting – Wednesday April 18th 2012

11. AOCB

- Following on from GM's suggestion that GPCC should "look east" JP and TH have spoken to Terry Tweed, secretary of Craigmillar CC, who is willing to come and address us about the Craigmillar Development Trust. The meeting agreed that he should be invited to the April meeting if possible, otherwise a later meeting.
- AG has details about Cockburn events if anyone wishes to attend.
- GM complained about public money being spent on ornamental gardens and said that the feuers should pay.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

From: "Gordon Mackenzie" gordon.mackenzie@edinburgh.gov.uk

I think all the information available on the poles is in the public domain and has been circulated to one or more members of the Community Council. This includes why certain lamp posts and poles are not being used. The main message / undertaking I would like to reiterate is that the redundant signage will start to be taken down from Friday when the order comes into effect. Thereafter it will be a case of ensuring that the Officers are as good as their word on the issue and that all redundant poles and signage is taken down. If anyone wants to query a particular pole / sign size or location please don't hesitate to get in touch with myself or any of the other local Councillors.

The other outstanding issue which I followed up from the last meeting was the proposed junction layout for the junction at Kings Buildings. To that end I met with Council officers today. They have summarised the issues as follows:

- * The number of vehicles currently turning right at the junction is 34 per hour during the AM peak. It is expected that with the implementation of the right turn ban these vehicles would reroute via a number of alternatives and at those very low volumes it would be almost impossible to detect where these vehicles have diverted against the general background variations in traffic volumes.
- * The proposed diagonal crossing would operate at the same time as the existing pedestrian crossings and would therefore not have an impact on the performance of the junction. The layout is similar in some aspects to the one at Holy Corner and there is another one in Fife which shares similarities. Both work effectively from a safety point of view.
- * A new right turn lane for vehicles/cyclists protected by a 'D island' will be provided at the Mayfield Road entrance to the King's Buildings campus as part of the Phase 1 works (i.e. by June and before the revised junction would be implemented). This will make this entrance to King's Buildings from Mayfield Road more attractive for people to use and will assist in dispersing further the vehicles diverted due to the right turn ban. Discussions are continuing with the University about how best to sign and direct traffic to this entrance but it is likely that improving this entrance will significantly reduce the number who may potentially have made the right turn onto West Savile Terrace.

Having looked at the information provided again, particularly the improvement to the right turn at the Mayfield Road entrance to KB but also the existing road layout and parking situation in the Rankins I can't see any good reason why people would turn right at West Savile Terrace and look to take a short cut through the Rankins area. As a driver for almost 30 years myself, I can see no attraction in that route and looking at the numbers who are currently using the right turn onto West Mains Road.

In summary, I think the proposed junction layout is acceptable when combined with the improvement to the Mayfield Rd entrance and indeed overall I would argue that one of the benefits of the Bike Corridor is that it will see fewer people (or certainly a lower percentage) travelling to the area by car which would have a positive impact on residential streets in the surrounding area.

Regards Gordon