

Secretary's Report – 21st November 2012

Correspondence

Live Well in Later Life - Information Day: The Council is hosting a 'Live Well in Later Life' information day for older people and those who provide care and support for them in **The Assembly Rooms, George Street, on 27th November 2012 between 11am and 6pm.** There will be representatives from Council, NHS and voluntary services there who will be able to tell you all about their community based work, and what they could do for you or your friend or relative. It is free to attend, and you can drop in at any time during the day. For more information please contact: Rachel Howe on 0131 529 6552 or rachel.howe@edinburgh.gov.uk

Email about WST Bus Shelter – see circulation folder

Email from John Gill (Capital Roads Funding) – see circulation folder

Wednesday Nov 28th - Celebrating Community Councils - 7pm City Chambers
(refreshments from 6.30pm)

GPCC to be represented by JP, TH, ST, GM (agreed at October meeting)

Emails from other Community Councils: There has been discussion about allowing members of the public who live outwith the CC area to attend meetings – some CCs were concerned that they shouldn't allow this. I said that GPCC welcomed members of the public from all areas – but did ask them to sign in (except for at large "Public" meetings).

Email to JP about Scottish Water and flooding problems:

Dear John,

Thanks for your email.

Our Strategic Flooding team are investigating Dalkeith Road and I do not have results yet. Lady Road - The powered screen at Ventnor Terrace - I attended with the Networks Team and the sewer is running well. We could not get access to the screen and are planning to do so ASAP. Due to its depth and the fact it is underground we require full team with gas monitors and escape kits to inspect. Once this is done I will let you know. The chamber at Ventnor will always spill in storm conditions as it is designed to do. The only concern I have is the screen may be blocked allowing rags to overflow also.

Kind regards,

Bill Elliot

Regional Community Manager

Neighbourhood Partnership Report – GPCC 21st November 2012

City Centre and Environmental Forum 29th October – Sue Tritton

Chair Jim Orr. Two other councillors (Melanie Main and Sandy Howat) present.

Waste Services (talk by Angus Murdoch). Service changes came in on 10th Sept with individual green bin collection now fortnightly – household collections take place on the 5 weekdays; collection all 7 days for communal bins etc. There was a 25% reduction in waste sent to landfill in September – target for 2012/13 is 40%; 50% for 2013/14.

West Savile Terrace Rose Garden. – David Doig praised local residents for maintaining the flower beds. Dog wardens are out early mornings to try to catch those allowing dog fouling. Department is working with SARA over the future. It appears that the adjacent land belongs to Scottish Power – possibility of improving this and using for some activities (dog walking?) – need to discuss with SP. Fence would be needed to protect the site from the railway if some of site used as a play area. Grant needed for this – how much? Could GPCC help?

Roads Capital Programme. Bids to be submitted by 31st December (£90k probably for 2013/14). Makeup of voting panel to be decided at next meeting – Monday February 25th.

SOUTH CENTRAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING PRIORITY GROUP – David Stevenson

30 October at Braidwood Centre, Dumbiedykes road.

Much of the meeting consisted of an interesting presentation on TIME BANKS [Senga Armstrong telling us about the Leith Time Bank] and discussion on this topic. We were recommended to look at the website of the Edinburgh City Network of Timebanks.

Other topics included:

Local Community Plan 2011-14 - Better Services for Older People.

South Edinburgh Health Forum Update.

Councillor Representation at Priority Group Meetings. [Considered to be a good thing though the view that Councillors should chair meetings was disputed - they could do so if asked but Groups happy to provide their own chairs should do this].

Future Meetings: Braidwood Centre preferred as venue [old stone building below Arthur's Seat, surrounded by modern flats].

Tuesdays 26 February, 11 June, 24 September, 3 December 2013.

Several of those at this meeting [2-3.40 pm approx.] also attended an interesting "Students in the Community" meeting at Edinburgh University's Teviot Union in the evening.

Community Safety Group 14-11-2012: report to GPCC – Mike Hunter

The South Central Neighbourhood Partnership CSG advises the police (Safer Neighbourhood Team) and the council (Community Safety Team) on priorities in both parts of the SCNP area. This report relates primarily to the Southside/Newington part within which the GPCC is situated.

Police representatives reported on priorities determined at the previous CSG meeting on Aug 29

1. Urination in public places, specifically Haddons Court. Patrols by Community Police Officers and Environmental Wardens have had some reports, but no arrests/warnings. Recommendation: remove as priority.
2. Bicycle theft prevention. Various initiatives, concentrating on students (as likely victims rather than thieves) and patrols. Four persons charged. Recommendation: remove as priority.
3. Shoplifting in Southside, especially from charity shops. Most reported thefts are from larger stores which have good security and therefore detection. Many charity shops appear not to report thefts: training has been provided. Recommendation: remove as priority or redefine objectives.

Possible priorities identified by police, and added to by CSG members, were discussed and the following priorities agreed for the period until the next meeting in February 2013. However, police representatives emphasized that matters no longer listed as priorities would not be ignored.

1. Graffiti to the front of shop premises along Sciennes Road
2. Cyclists without lights in the Mayfield Road area
3. Motorists contravening no right turn and no entry signs in Minto Street

The most significant changes in crimes reported, Southside/Newington, Jan-Oct 2012, were

- Domestic housebreaking: 57 compared to 101 in the same months of 2011
- Drug possession: 158 compared to 122 in the same months of 2011

These changes may be influenced by differing police activities and do not therefore necessarily reflect changes in the actual incidence of crimes. More complete crime reports are available, by postcode, from the Lothian and Borders Police website.

“Students in the Community” 30th October – Sue Tritton

(David Stevenson also present)

The evening, attended by students and representatives from various community councils etc. was to decide on the projects to be considered for £6000 (from the funds reserved for student projects from NP Grants) funding. The evening was well arranged and the students had already discussed possible projects with officials – so these were much better presented and more feasible than those suggested on the two previous occasions. A project on reducing waste was the top selection and (together with a couple of other projects) will now be worked up into a formal proposal.

I also got contact details for students looking to help with matters such as web design, leaflet production. Contact Hilary.Wardle@eusa.ed.ac.uk

HMO Working Group 1st November – Sue Tritton

Chaired by Ian Perry. Ian said that a replacement for the Statutory Notice system will be brought in – consultation now complete. HMO Enquiry system is now on line and works OK. No home address for landlord is on line.

HMO applications are starting to drop as more custom built property (e.g. student flats) is being built. Changes in the benefit system for single people in the 25-35 age range may increase the number of small HMOs

Next meeting – Thursday 7th February – agenda to include: Party lets, Guidance, Stat Notices

SCNP meeting Monday November 26th – agenda in circulation file

Agenda items include:

Bus shelters on West Savile Terrace – GPCC agreed to support at October meeting (see also email in circulation file)