

Grange Prestonfield Community Council Chair's Report, February 2013

Flooding and Drainage on Dalkeith Road

Bill Elliott from Scottish Water reported:

The lateral sewer connections between 152 & 196 Dalkeith Road were surveyed in Dec 2012 and would seem to be in reasonable condition with no major defects found. The contractor however was unable to survey the main sewer in Dalkeith Road due to buried Man Holes and traffic management issues.

The contractor is in the process of applying for Traffic Management and liaising with the local authority to agree a date when this work can be programmed to complete our works. Once these works have been programmed I will let you know the dates.

Review of Community Council Scheme

The Council intends to have the revised CC Scheme adopted and used for the 2013 CC elections in October preceded by a 3 week nomination period. This means that, unless changes are made as a consequence of the consultation, Edinburgh CCs will have to postpone their AGM due in May until the first meeting after the election. Consequently CC Officers will continue until the deferred AGM.

In the case of GPCC anyway our present constitution requires that the May AGM be deferred in an election year until the election, after which it shall be held within 21 days.

It is also intended to strengthen the criteria for registered local interest groups and it is understood that this will be subject to consultation.

As a by-product of all this EACC has decided also to defer its June 2013 AGM until after the appointment of new CC Officers which probably means until November. We propose Tony Harris should continue as the GPCC representative on EACC until then.

Rose Garden

We continue to receive e-mails in support of a children's playground at the Rose Garden and have discussed the situation with Douglas Dalgleish from Savile Area Residents Association. We think the following actions are necessary.

1. We need someone to approach Scottish Water about change of use. Tony Harris will approach Bill Elliott.
2. New fencing is required to make the area safe. We need to get a quote from the South Environment Team for this.
3. We think we should apply for a Community Grants Fund to finance the play equipment if not the fence as well.
4. We need to find out who owns the land behind the electricity sub-station to the north of the railway, to see if this could become a place for people to walk and toilet their dogs. Tony Harris will start exploring this.
5. If this could happen then Douglas Dalgleish thinks the SARA volunteers would come back to look after the garden in the Rose Garden.

Re Rankin Drive, although Councillors have received requests to develop the triangle as a play ground, we think we should do a bit of community development with local residents first. We are considering a local survey.

We have also been approached about the playground at Blackford Pond.

James Gillespie's Primary School

We have been invited by the Chair of JGPS Parent Council, a GPCC resident, to attend and support a joint meeting they are planning between the School Council and the Marchmont and Sciennes Community Council. This is to discuss the City Council's plans for the estate at James Gillespie's Primary School and how the school will be used to cope with the planned rising school roll between 2015 and 2020.

The meeting has been set for 27 February and all GPCC members are welcome to attend.

Empty Shops

Cllr Steve Burgess received a comprehensive response in reply to Ray Footman's enquiry about empty shops. One of the Town Centre coordinators was asked to do a walk round of the Community Council area and identify the number of empty shops, issues and potential solutions.

A visual audit on 22 January of Mayfield Road and Causewayside from King's Buildings to West Cross Causeway found only 5 empty shops out of 109 (4.6%). This is well below the city average. It may be that Dalkeith Road is of more concern.

Pharmacy in Dalkeith Road

We have written in support of Elixir Pharmacy's appeal.

John Palmer
Chair