

## **Grange Prestonfield Community Council Chair's Report, May 2013**

### **Summer Newsletter**

At the last meeting we agreed we would produce and distribute a Summer Newsletter, with the main aim of encouraging people to stand for election to the Community Council in September. We had a very good response from our last newsletter and so would like to maintain that standard.

1. We have asked Kenny Kemp to write copy and produce the newsletter for us again
2. Mike Hunter has agreed to provide editorial control to ensure we see a final draft before printing and get website friendly and text only versions. Other members of the CC are welcome to assist him
3. We have set a budget of £850 for 7,500 copies, to include some element of paid distribution.
4. We are seeking a grant from CEC to help defray the cost.

We need suggestions of stories to be included in the newsletter. The main point will be to show the value and relevance of the CC to life in Grange/Prestonfield. The main items could be the RPP consultations, planning issues, 20 mph zone, Dalkeith Road flooding. It would be nice to have a feature on a CC member, as we had before.

Are there other suggestions?

### **Flooding and Drainage on Dalkeith Road**

Any further information about the survey of the main sewer in Dalkeith Road will be reported to a future meeting.

### **Review of Community Council Scheme**

Following the first statutory consultation period CEC reports that comments have been analysed and a report recommending further changes was approved at a Special Meeting of the Council on 2 May. Consultation on this has opened.

Respondents were generally supportive of the proposed Scheme and the added emphasis on community councils being able to demonstrate evidence of their engagement with the community.

Areas of the Scheme which have been identified for further consideration during May 2013 include:

- Role of nominated members and criteria for appointment
- Procedure for amending small scale CC boundaries

With regard to nominated members the revised scheme as currently stands simply says they have to represent local interest groups registered with the City of Edinburgh Council, be voluntary groups and be representative of that community.

It also says, 'Where a group seeks to be registered for more than one community council area because their local interest extends into those areas, then they may apply to be registered as local interest groups in each area.' Is 'local interest group' sufficient? Do we think that a local interest extending into more than one area can also be representative of the community?

Should the nominated representative of the group, who would become the Nominated Member, live in the CC area?

At the moment we are simply told by CEC if a local interest group has applied and been registered. Should we be informed of the application before registration?

Disqualification of membership: If a nominated member does not conform to the 6-month rule, should the registered interest group be disqualified from membership?

In the arrangements for a Joint Meeting to select nominated members (when there are more nominations than places), it is not sufficiently clear that the Meeting will also be attended by elected members of the CC, who also vote to select the nominated members. This should be stated more clearly in the arrangements.

### **Pharmacy in Dalkeith Road**

Unfortunately Elixir Pharmacy's appeal was again turned down.

John Palmer  
Chair