

Grange/Prestonfield Community Council Newsletter Summer 2013

Text only version

In this issue

- No-Go area for graffiti menace
- Find a Friend: Newington Cemetery needs loving care
- Residents' Parking: A local matter

NOW IS YOUR CHANCE! TO STAND UP FOR A BETTER LOCAL COMMUNITY

Everyone wants to live and work in a better and safer community. It means local people tackling local issues that matter. In September 2013 there is an opportunity for local people to become involved with the Grange/Prestonfield Community Council as elected Community Council representatives.

You don't need experience to stand for election to the community council. All you need is a willingness to give up a little of your time to help make this area an even better place to live. You do need to be resident, and a registered voter, in the area.

There will be an election in Grange/Prestonfield for the Community Council on 24th October 2013. Unless more residents are nominated for election than the maximum 16 places available, all those nominated will be elected.

You can attend a meeting of the CC before deciding whether or not to stand – the next meeting will be on Wednesday September 18th at 7pm at Cameron House Community Education Centre – the agenda will be on our website and on notice boards in early September.

The Community Council is vitally important because it works with officials and councillors in the City of Edinburgh Council, with community police officers, and with interested residents and businesses to help find solutions to local issues. Perhaps you are unaware of its activities, but it has already played a significant role in defining how our community lives and works. Of particular importance is its role in considering planning applications in (or affecting) the area, about which residents may be concerned

LOCAL SOLUTIONS

Grassroots democracy really matters in Edinburgh. We are fortunate in having a pleasant part of Scotland where we live, bring up our families, or find peace in our retirement. We all need to ensure that this remains.

"I speak on behalf of the whole Grange/Prestonfield Community Council and urge you to get involved," says John Palmer, the Community Council's elected chairman.

“There are a variety of ways you can participate in your community. It is worthwhile and it feels good to be able to give something back. The more voices that are heard, the more we are able to represent the interests of the Grange/Prestonfield area. There are issues – such as traffic and road safety, planning, local crime and anti-social behaviour – that have a daily impact on our lives.”

“We can never afford to be complacent, we need to take part in local matters to determine local outcomes - and everyone can do their bit.”

Growing demands

Whether you want to grow vegetables or flowers, the demand for allotments remains high in Edinburgh. There is a waiting list in most districts. The Community Council is pleased that 13 new growing spaces have been made available at 30 Prestonfield Avenue. But we will keep campaigning for more.

Beat the scourge

Graffiti might seem like a minor issue – but these daubs make communities feel less safe. It has become a problem in the south side of Edinburgh and it is extremely difficult and costly to clean off the stone buildings in the Grange/Prestonfield area. The Community Council have been working with local police to help beat this scourge. Residents are encouraged to report anyone painting graffiti to the police, who are building a database of ‘tags’. We want the area to become a ‘No-Go’ area for the anti-social graffiti menace.

CLEAR ROAD AHEAD FOR LOCAL PARKING SCHEMES

Edinburgh is beautiful - but it has a finite amount of space for cars. Parking has become a major local issue – especially at peak times. City Council schemes for Residents’ Priority Parking (RPP) in Priestfield and Nether Liberton are likely to go ahead, following consultation with the Community Council.

The first RPP scheme was set up - as a result of public meetings held by Grange/Prestonfield Community Council - to ensure that local residents are able to park their cars as near as possible to their homes.

Residents pay around £30 a year, depending on the size of car and CO₂ emissions, allowing them to park in designated spaces. Commuters are discouraged because those without permits cannot use the parking bays between 10 and 11.30am.

NEWINGTON CEMETERY – IN NEED OF FRIENDS

Tony Harris, the Vice Chairman of Grange/Prestonfield Community Council, writes:

When architect David Cousins laid out Newington Cemetery in 1846 for the Metropolitan Cemetery Association, the Victorian way of death was big business. Originally known as Echo Bank Cemetery and later referred to as Newington Necropolis, the site was bounded to the west by the Pow Burn, to the east by Dalkeith Road and was then beyond the southern built up limit of the City. The original design included the catacombs and terrace in the middle of the cemetery and the Victorian Gothic Lodge at the Dalkeith Road entrance.

The initial area was extended towards Cameron Toll to the extent we see today and in the 1880s the South Suburban Railway was built, running alongside the Pow Burn at the cemetery boundary.

Today there are no new grave sites available. There are Commonwealth War Grave Commission monuments dating from the First World War and a separate area adjacent to Dalkeith Road was used for Jewish burials until 1945. In 1982 a fatal accident occurred when a headstone fell on a young person and this, coupled with the cemetery becoming overgrown and neglected, led to it being compulsorily purchased by the City Council in 1994. The cemetery is a designated bio-diversity site and the city council burial staff limit the work to seasonal grass cutting, invasive weed control and safety maintenance, such as essential tree management. It is now a peaceful green 'lung' in the midst of our urban area and a wildlife sanctuary.

Some Community Council representatives, with support from the Craigmillar Park Association, have been looking at what might enhance a visit to the cemetery without compromising its purpose. We do not think we can expect the City Council to do much more when money is tight, so self-help may be the way forward. Let us know what you think and, of course, we welcome help to make it happen, including support for a 'Friends' group. If you have not been there recently, why not pay a visit and maybe get some ideas?

A TIMETABLE FOR ELECTIONS 2013

There is still time for you to get involved this autumn. The election of Grange/Prestonfield Community Council will be conducted under the Scottish Local Elections Rules 1986. The date of election and hours of polling have been fixed by the City of Edinburgh Council. Local councillor Cameron Rose has been appointed as Returning Office and you should contact him for nomination papers.

Contact: Cameron Rose, The City of Edinburgh Council, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1YJ. Telephone: 0131 529 4078.

Email: cameron.rose@edinburgh.gov.uk

The timetable for the election of Representatives is:

Monday, 2 September: Notice of Election. This is the start of nomination period and those interested must fill out nomination papers.

Monday, 23 September: Close of nominations. The forms then go to the Returning Officer.

Thursday, 3 October: Notice of Poll (if a poll is required).

Thursday, 24 October: Polling Day (if a poll is required).

THE 20-MPH ZONE

The creation of the 20mph pilot area in Grange/Prestonfield has resulted in the majority of motorists curbing their speed. But the Community Council has urged the police to take action to enforce the limit and tackle speeding drivers.

LICENSING CONCERNS

The Community Council is notified of all applications for licences in Grange and Prestonfield. If you have any concerns about music noise, anti-social behaviour or other kinds of disruption to our local community, please get in touch.

PARTY LET NOISE

The Community Council has raised concerns that 'Party Lets' for stag and hen parties have become a problem in Edinburgh, causing a nuisance with residents in Grange/Prestonfield area. Chairman John Palmer asks residents affected by such a nuisance to contact the council.

YOUR COMMUNITY COUNCIL WHY NOT GIVE IT A TRY?

Do you have something that is causing you concern in your community? Have you considered coming along to a Grange/Prestonfield Community Council meeting to raise the matter? You should consider this. You will get a chance to raise your concerns in a sympathetic and independent forum. Everyone is treated with respect and given a proper hearing.

While the representatives might not be able to resolve every complaint, they can make sure that the appropriate authorities in Edinburgh are tackling the issue. It's your community – and it matters.

The Grange/Prestonfield Community Council has up to 16 elected representative members and up to a further eight from local interest groups. The Community Council meets nine times a year, normally in Cameron House Community Education Centre, 34 Prestonfield Avenue, EH16 5EU. All members of the public are welcome to attend and meet the representatives. Please check out www.grangeprestonfieldcc.org.uk You will find all the community council minutes available on the site.

The current office bearers are:

Chair John Palmer

chair@grangeprestonfieldcc.org.uk

Vice chair Tony Harris

vicechair@grangeprestonfieldcc.org.uk

Secretary Sue Tritton

secretary@grangeprestonfieldcc.org.uk

Treasurer Andreas Grothey

treasurer@grangeprestonfieldcc.org.uk

If you are not on email, you can contact Sue Tritton, c/o Cameron House Community Education Centre, or on 0131 667 8027.

Produced by Grange/Prestonfield Community Council. Summer 2013.

Thank you to the volunteers who have hand-delivered this newsletter.