

Secretary's Report to GPCC AGM – 16th October 2013

First, we must thank the Community Education Centre for allowing us to hold our regular monthly meetings here and free of charge. This allows us to have more money available to fund other activities such as the newsletter – other CCs have to spend much of their funds on accommodation costs. The meetings have been held on the third Wednesday in 9 months of the year (no meetings in July, August or December). We also appreciate the attendance at most meetings of the local Police, a CEC official and one of our local councillors. The meetings are all open to members of the public as well as to elected community councillors.

Community Councils are somewhat different to other local amenity groups in that they are organised by the City Council which arranges the elections, provides the Constitution and Code of Conduct etc. Each CC receives an annual grant from the City Council to help fund its activities – and can also apply for further funding for specific purposes. The CC is formally consulted about planning applications in its area and is informed about matters such as licensing applications, road traffic orders etc. CCs also have representatives on the Board of Neighbourhood Partnerships which are formal committees of the City Council.

South Central Neighbourhood Partnership (SCNP) (*next meeting Monday November 25th*)

The SCNP is the CEC Committee covering the Southside/Newington and Meadows/Morningside wards – the members are the 8 local ward councillors, representatives from all CCs in the area and from organisations such as the Police and Health Service. There are four meetings each year which are open to everyone. The meetings consider a variety of matters including the award of Community Grants which have been submitted to the NP. The GPCC rep on the SCNP has been Sue Tritton – substitutes are allowed and Tony Harris has attended. The SCNP has 5 **priority groups** which also meet about every three months – these consider and discuss activity related to the local community plan priorities. Anyone can attend these meetings but it is good for GPCC to have a nominated rep who will receive all papers etc.

The priority groups are as follows (with the GPCC rep indicated):

Environmental and Town Centre Group (*Sue Tritton*): Responsible for taking forward the “Improve the Environment and Town Centre” priority

Health and Wellbeing Group (*David Stevenson*): Responsible for taking forward the “Better Services for Older People” priority.

Community Safety Group: (*Mike Hunter*): Responsible for taking forward the “Improvement Community Safety” priority.

Dumbiedykes Quality of Life Group: (*no rep*) Responsible for taking forward the “Quality of Life in Dumbiedykes” priority.

Childrens, Young Peoples and Families Group: (*no rep*) This group is responsible for taking forward the “Better Services for Young People” priority.

There are also two advisory groups which report to the SCNP

HMO Working Group (*Sue Tritton*): Deals with all matters relating to HMOs (Houses in Multiple Occupation).

Meadows and Bruntsfield Links Advisory Group (MABLAG) (*no rep*)

Capital Roads Fund: Approx £100k is taken from the CEC Capital Roads Programme each year and awarded to each NP for local priorities as submitted by local organisations. GPCC has submitted proposals in most years; the closing date is 31st December.

Sue Tritton
14th October 2012