

Grange Prestonfield Community Council

Cameron House Community Education Centre

Minutes 15th October 2014

Present: Tony Harris (**TH**) (Chair), Mike Hunter (**MH**) (Vice-Chair), Sue Tritton (**ST**) (Secretary), Andreas Grothey (**AG**) (Treasurer), Barbara McNaught (**BM**), Graham Dann (**GSD**), Gilly Dennis (**GD**), Doreen Allerton (**DA**), David Stevenson (**DS**), Maureen Edwards (**ME**), Hazel Dunn (**HD**), Graham Muir (**GM**), Julian Newman (**JN**), Derek Howie (**DH**)
Cllr Jim Orr (**JO**)

In Attendance: PC Janie Harman, Alan Stewart (**ASt**) (**CEC**), Justine Taylor (**CEC**)

Apologies: Sergey Gorobets (**SG**), Janet Sidaway (**JS**), Denis Stevens (**DeS**), Eileen Francis

Absent: Bill Reid (**BR**), Simon di Biase (**SdB**), Maria Ullibarri (**MU**),

Public: Joanna Hinton, Joan Ritchie

1. Welcome - Introduction and Apologies

TH welcomed everyone, in particular Justine Taylor, Waste and Community Engagement Officer for CEC who would talk about the new Kerbside recycling service.

Justine Taylor (JT) described the new recycling service being introduced gradually over the next year – one of the first areas to receive the new service was Prestonfield. Other areas will follow in November 2014 and March, June and September 2015. The aim is to increase the recycling rate from the present 40% - this means that about 130,000 tons (at a cost of over £100 per ton) are still going to landfill. The recycling cost is about half of this. Households will now use their green bin for recycling material – envelopes, and plastic pots and trays are being added – and will be provided with a smaller grey bin for general waste. The blue box will be retained for glass, batteries and small electrical items. Bins will be collected on the same day each week between 6am and 10pm. Before the new service is introduced lots of advertising and advice given to residents in the area. Eight weeks after the introduction most residents seemed happy with the smaller bin; recycling rates have increased from 40-50%; processors are happy with the quality of recycled materials. Initially residents were just sent a “warning” letter advising them that incorrect materials were being put into a bin. This period is coming to an end and incorrectly filled bins, or overflowing bins, will not be emptied. The problem of too many bins on the street is being addressed and some residents are being encouraged to share bins. There were then several questions and comments:

- GM asked about the level of fines for mis-presentation of rubbish (he claimed one person had been fined £800) – JT replied that this was considered to be fly-tipping and the environmental wardens would apply the fixed penalty charge
- DA asked whether people with dementia would be penalised if their rubbish was presented incorrectly. JT thought most would be in care homes but they wouldn't, in general, be penalised.
- JN asked when the rest of GPCC area would be included – probably 2015. He also commented that there are problems with fortnightly collections when one day is missed (e.g. if one is away)

- BM commented that her street organises jointly – but bins are randomly replaced and it is therefore difficult to identify them.
- DH said scattered bins are a hazard for blind and disabled people and those with buggies etc.
- JT said that many of these points were operational and not her responsibility. She said that all poor collections should be logged – email waste@edinburgh.gov.uk
- TH suggested we should invite someone from operations to address us. ASt asked to identify a suitable person.

JT was thanked for her presentation and she then left the meeting.

The meeting then continued with the agenda items.

2. Declarations of Interest. None

3. Minutes of the Meeting of 17th September 2014

These had been previously circulated and were approved; proposed by ME, seconded by DA.

4. Matters Arising (not on the agenda)

Low bridges at Cameron Toll: ST had recirculated the reply received in June. She had also written again to the Council but hadn't received a reply.

Change of meeting room: The September meeting had been held in the Art Room where the acoustics were much better. We had asked for GPCC meeting to be changed to this room – a different group used this room fortnightly – GPCC could have this room when available.

5. External Reports

a) Council Report: ASt said he had nothing to report.

GM asked ASt (as a housing officer) why so many council houses are in need of repair and do not have proper fire doors. ASt said that the doors need only be “fire resistant”; he also said that kitchen and bathroom replacements are being done to all properties.

b) Police Report: PC JH reported:

- **Break-ins:** These are continuing in the area – she emphasised the Police advice to fit strong locks to garages and sheds and to fit alarms. Also, to mark valuable items so that they can be identified.
- **Vehicle damage:** Items are being stolen from cars – the advice is not to leave valuables on display.
- **Drugs:** GM asked what is being done about drug use in the area. PCJH said she didn't think there was any drug dealing but any suspicions should be reported to the Police.

c) Councillor's Report: Cllr JO reported:

- **Residents Priority Parking:** Many residents had been in touch as they are concerned that not enough provision is being made for residents. GSD had also been contacted by several people with the same concerns. There was some confusion about the implementation of parking bays in Phase 1 and Phase 2 and how long it might take to implement Phase 2 if not enough provision had been made in Phase 1. Cllr JO and GSD would liaise about these problems and the perceived undersupply of residents' spaces.

- **20mph Consultation:** Consensus is that the extension is a good thing. For enforcement talk to the Police – extra officers provided for this.
- **Budget Consultation:** Cameron House is concerned about cuts. GPCC asked to keep up pressure on the Council to continue support – staffing is needed to maintain the services.

6. Reports of Interest Groups

a) **Planning:** A report had been circulated. TH reported in addition:

Student Accommodation in Causewayside: The revised application for fewer units appeared to meet GPCC objections. West Blacket was still concerned about the high density and would be maintaining their objections.

23 Lauder Road: TH suggested that GPCC should object to uPVC windows as these were against guidance. The meeting agreed this (on a majority vote).

St Margaret's Playing Field: As agreed in September GPCC had objected as the application is contrary to the designation of this site as "Open Space" (in both the LDP and LDP2).

Funeral Parlour at 10 East Suffolk Road: After considerable discussion, it was agreed to restrict an objection to the relation of the building to adjacent listed buildings and the use class of the new building. TH would circulate a proposed letter of objection.

Homebase – proposed student accommodation. This is just outside GPCC area. Although concerns were raised it was decided that GPCC would not formally object (although some individuals might do so) – it was thought that several objections have already been submitted.

b) **Roads and Transport:** GSD reported:

- **RPP:** See Councillor's report.
- **20mph Consultation:** GSD and MH had attended a public meeting. GSD had a separate meeting with Prestonfield PS who are concerned about the varying speed limits on Peffermill Road. GPCC comments to be submitted (closing date – Friday 17th October). Cllr JO said he would support making Peffermill Road 20mph at all times.
- **Prestonfield PS:** There is problem with parking at the back of the school and there is a request for it to be included in the trial closure at school start and closing times.
- **Peffermill Road:** Suggestion to widen footpath to make it shared use – this would also help cyclists going to the Innocent Railway. JO and GSD to meet and discuss this.
- **New Cycle Routes – Meadows to Union Canal:** This looks OK – no comments from GPCC
- **New Cycle Routes – Marchmont to KB:** Various concerns were raised about the proposals for the difficult Kilgraston Road/ Grange Loan junction. GSD would submit a list of concerns and questions about this junction. Also, to ask for a meeting with an official at an appropriate time. AG also asked about the Edinburgh policy of not having cycle lanes marked at traffic island.

c) **Licensing.** Nothing in our area.

d) **Publicity (including website and newsletter)** nothing to report.

e) **Newington Cemetery:** HD and BM reported on the very successful Doors Open Day event. Over 100 people had attended and some had volunteered to join the group. Sheila Gilmore, MP had attended and written an article in her monthly newsletter. TH also thanked BM's husband for producing the A3 sheets at the marked sites.

7. Office Bearers Reports

- a) **Chair's Report:** TH said he had nothing to report as Chair.
- b) **Treasurer's Report:** AG reported that the cheques for the newsletter had been now been cashed – the bank balance therefore remains at £1253.30.
- c) **Secretary's Report:** Details of the earlier collection times at several post boxes was circulated. Agreed to contact Ian Murray MP – in particular to ask that details of nearest box with a later collection time should be added to collection details on each box.

8. Reports of Outside Groups

- **SCNP Action Groups:** Details of recent meetings in the Secretary's report.
- **EACC matters** – There will be a meeting next month.

9. Date of next meeting – Wednesday 19th November 2014

10. AOCB and Open Forum

Budget Consultation: ME raised the problem of possible rent increases for allotments. CEC is proposing to raise £150,000 from increased rents. In 2009 FEDAGA had agreed with the Council to raise rents to £100 (£50 concessions) but they would then be frozen until 2020. There are 1429 plot holders in Edinburgh (with 2730 on the waiting list). Rents elsewhere include £35/25 in Glasgow and an average of £60 in England. Members of the Allotment and Gardens Association asked to contact CCs to lobby CEC – partly on breaking the 2009 agreement and partly on the implicit huge increase in rents. Agreed to have the budget as an agenda item in November and that ME should circulate detailed information in advance.

The meeting closed at 9.12pm