

Grange Prestonfield Community Council
Cameron House Community Education Centre
Minutes 18th March 2015

Present: Tony Harris (TH) (Chair), Mike Hunter (MH) (Vice-Chair), Sue Tritton (ST) (Secretary), Andreas Grothey (AG) (Treasurer), Graham Dann (GSD), Gilly Dennis (GD), Maureen Edwards (ME), Bill Reid (BR), Graham Muir (GM), Barbara McNaught (BM), Doreen Allerton (DA), Sergey Gorobets (SG), David Stevenson (DS), Derek Howie (DH), Eileen Francis (EF), Cllr Ian Perry (IP),

In Attendance: David Mark, CEC Waste Management (DM), PC Mish Muchemwa (MM)

Apologies: Julian Newman, Janet Sidaway, Hazel Dunn, Denis Stevens

Public: Clive Greated

1. Welcome - Introduction and Apologies

TH welcomed everyone and introduced David Mark, community waste officer for Ward 15 (contact details: david.mark@edinburgh.gov.uk or Tel: 469 5485). David said he deals with collection issues, new build, developers etc. He invited questions and replied as follows:

- **Rolling bins:** SG asked if there was any progress in dealing with the problem of bins rolling down the street. No solution yet – mainly due to poor design, brakes not working due to rusty wheels. Need to speak to the Neighbourhood team about the design.
- **Drummond Street:** GM said there are 26 bins in this street – most in the street at all times. Drummond Street is not in DM's area – however, he said that all bins should have a licence; environmental wardens can issue fines; bins are generally collected once a week. DM suggested that an alternative solution might be sacks which could be collected daily.
- **Scattered bins:** DH referred to the problem facing blind people (and those in wheelchairs or with buggies) on “bin day” when bins are scattered over the pavement. DM said that persistent offenders (those who do not remove bins after emptying) are written to but there are no powers to remove bins from pavements. DM didn't know about any legislation about keeping pavements clear – he was asked to find out. Other comments referred to CEC collection teams being bad at not replacing bins where the householder had left them.
- **Litter:** AG commented that after collection – particularly after paper and cardboard collection – there is often litter from items which have blown around. Also, if boxes are left upright they tend to blow around. DM said boxes should be replaced upside down.
- **Sheltered Housing:** DA commented that bins in her complex often overflow.
- **New Communal Bins:** All street bins are being replaced – will take 3-4 years to complete this in the city. DM said that there are now very few problems with moving bins – suggested that “bull bars” to prevent bins rolling might be a better solution than brakes (which don't always work). “Bull bars” might need agreement from the Neighbourhood Partnership – need to raise this at the next NP meeting. ST
- **Clamps:** BM commented that if there are no clamps for street bins how do the men know where to replace the bin after emptying – could space be marked on the road or pavement? DM replied: “the men should replace the bin and painting the space would be expensive.”
- **New collection service:** Will be introduced in June or September for areas still with “old” bins – householders will be individually notified about 6 weeks before the introduction.

DM was thanked for coming and left around 7.30pm.

2. **Declarations of Interest.** None

3. **Minutes of the Meeting of 18th February 2015**

These had been previously circulated and were approved; proposed by BR, seconded by GD.

4. **Matters Arising (not on the agenda) - None**

5. **External Reports**

a) **Council Report:** No report as ASt absent.

b) **Police Report:** PC Muchemwa reported:

- **Break-ins and car theft:** Most crime in the city is on a downward spiral – except for break-ins. Thieves are entering property to steal cars – especially high value cars and when owners are away as the theft may not be reported for some time. Advice is to keep car keys in a safe place.
- **Bike theft:** These continue to be stolen from sheds and garages – there have been several good recoveries recently – some from eBay and Gumtree.
- **Operation Comatus:** Police are targeting areas where there are break-ins etc. All real police officers will carry an official badge.
- **Bogus workmen:** Not many just now but expect more as the weather improves.
- **Suspicious white van:** DA said there is a suspicious white van in the area – advised to contact the police.
- **Observatory Road:** Mr Greated reported two recent break-ins in this street – he asked if the police advise neighbours – PC MM replied that neighbours are notified. Residents noticing suspicious circumstances should phone 101.
- **Personal alarms:** The police used to give these out but PC MM is not aware of any free ones now. Contact the crime prevention officers for advice about these.

c) **Councillor's Report:** Cllr IP reported:

- **Student Housing Policy:** Meeting was reminded about this consultation and that there would be a meeting in the City Council on March 26th about this. Universities particularly want housing for graduate students. This may also affect the HMO policy.
- **Student Housing applications:** Student housing in Luton Place was refused by the Planning Committee (as it would make more than 30% students in the area) but granted by the Reporter – there is now a judicial review of this decision and the result expected in 2-3 weeks. The application for student housing at Homebase was also refused by the Planning committee and also appealed. Occasionally reporters have been known to disagree with each other.
- **Legal highs:** Local residents in Southside are concerned about needles being used for this – needles are then left in the street. If the Police see needles they will remove them from the user. Discussion about whether the use of needles to inject legal highs should be banned. Shops do not require a licence to sell these – there is a health warning on the packets.
- **LDP2:** Concern about who pays for infrastructure as Edinburgh grows – these costs (for roads, schools etc.) are way above what Section 75 can provide. Discussion about the strain on Council resources to allow Edinburgh to grow. This will be part of the decision on LDP2 when it is considered by the Planning Committee on May 14th. GM and TH commented that there was too much provision of hotels and businesses in the city centre which resulted in residents moving out.

- **Graham Muir:** There was an exchange of views between GM and Cllr IP about a concern of a housing officer which did not appear to relate to GPCC matters. Discussion to continue outside the meeting.

6. Reports of Interest Groups

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

- **21 West Mayfield:** Application to turn basement into “party flats”. GPCC not aware of problems here but, if there are any, we might object.
- **52 St Albans Road:** Application for “garden room” – very visible, drawings are misleading and the materials inappropriate. Agreed to object.
- **Causewayside student housing:** approved
- **Royal Observatory, Higgs Building:** Concerns about impact outside the actual site – parking, congestion, difficult access road. Such problems tend to not be addressed in assessing local developments.
- **Goods Corner:** outwith our area but an important site.
- **KB:** Exhibition of new proposals, especially for Biological Sciences. TH and ST met Prof David Gray who offered to host a meeting to look at the plans in detail. ST to contact and suggest a meeting in early June. **ST**

b) **Roads and Transport:** GSD had circulated a report – he highlighted:

- **20mph general:** The legal process to implement this city-wide will start in April. Cllr IP indicated that the CEC has financial resources to allow the Police to enforce this limit.
- **Speed survey in Priestfield Road:** The promised survey was done from 7-13 February 2015. This showed that most vehicles were travelling at about 25mph – with a few travelling much faster. GSD will circulate the full results on request. Cllr IP said that if traffic isn’t slowing down the Council can introduce speed humps but he isn’t sure that all residents would welcome these. SG asked for enforcement cameras – Cllr IP said he wasn’t sure if these could be used in built up areas. GM referred to a survey done in London – he was asked to provide send details of the link to ST so that everyone could be informed. **GM**
- **Enforcement:** Flashing “warning” signs are thought to work well. AG said there is a culture of non-enforcement. Cllr IP replied that there is now a service level agreement with the Police to monitor speeds in the city. It is most important to encourage the Police to monitor speeds and fine those exceeding the limit.
- **Lady Road:** GM asked why Lady Road was not included in the 20mph area. Cllr IP said this road had been discussed.
- **South Central Roads Capital Programme:** The meeting to decide priorities is scheduled for Thursday April 30th. GPCC will have three representative (or 3 votes if three people cannot attend) – these to be decided at the April meeting. The programme should be available in early April. ST had been asked by other groups in the GPCC area who had independently submitted proposals. GPCC would consider these but our first priority must be the proposal we had submitted (East Mayfield). Details were also provided about the delay in carrying out the repairs to East Mayfield and it was still hoped that this would be done.

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

d) **Publicity (including website and newsletter)** Information about Newington Cemetery is now on the website.

e) **Newington Cemetery:** JS had provided a written report(included in Secretary's report)

- **Working Party:** Since the last meeting a working party was held on Monday March 16th and enough undergrowth has been cleared to access the interesting graves planned to be included in the next Doors Open Day.
- **Signage and website:** progress has been made – formal request for financial support is being prepared.
- **Headstones:** Another presentation from Alan McKinney on the Headstone Restoration project at Liberton Cemetery (similar to that held by the sib-group on March 17th) may be arranged in conjunction with the Grange Association and Marchmont Sciennes CC. .

7. **Office Bearers Reports**

- a) **Chair's Report:** TH – everything has come up elsewhere.
- b) **Treasurer's Report:** AG reported £1179.60 in the bank with expenses of £82.73 outstanding (website and domain name renewal).
- c) **Secretary's Report:** everything has some up elsewhere.

8. **Reports of Outside Groups**

- a) **SCNP and Action Groups:** Nothing to report
- b) **EACC matters:** TH said that EACC continues to try to revive itself.
 - **Executive Committee on March 26th** – TH will report in April
 - **Community Council Liaison Officer:** Breid Croal had started last week and TH is meeting her soon.
 - **EACC Q&A:** Saturday April 25th 10.30-12.30 in the City Chambers with Cllr Child and Nick Croft.

9. **Date of next meeting – Wednesday 15th April 2015**

10. **AOCB and Open Forum**

The meeting closed at 8.50pm